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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support the request for a five-year extension of the transition period for the CW1 program for foreign workers?

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to cast your vote.

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ASIA



Armed Filipino clan remains elusive after Malaysian assault.

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ENVIRONMENT



A new study says that 100 million sharks are killed annually.

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LIFE & STYLE



Tommy Lee Jones takes on Gen. Douglas MacArthur in 'Emperor.'

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All NMI lawyers conflicted out in Crisostomo case. PAGE 3

Buckingham 'escorts' arrested

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE and HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTERS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's police chief, a police captain, and a ports police officer were arrested last night for allegedly helping shield former attorney general and now fugitive Edward T. Buckingham from being served a penal summons in August last year.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero confirmed last night that Police Capt. Jermaine W. Nekaifas, CPA's police chief Jordan Kosam, and CPA's Capt. Juan Rebueng were arrested during a joint operation by DPS and Office of the Public Auditor. Nekaifas was former governor Benigno R. Fitial's police detail.

Deleon Guerrero said that Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, who issued the arrest warrant, set

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Hugo Chavez, 58

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—President Hugo Chavez was a former paratroop commander and self-styled "subversive" who waged continual battle for his socialist ideals. He bedeviled the United States and outsmarted his rivals



Chavez

time and again, while using Venezuela's vast oil wealth to his political advantage. Chavez led one coup attempt, defeated another and was re-elected three times. Almost the only adversary it seemed he couldn't beat was cancer. He died Tuesday in Caracas at age 58, two years after he was first diagnosed.

The son of schoolteachers, he rose from poverty in a dirt-floor, mud-walled house, a "humble soldier" in the battle

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MHS Glee Club wins Sweepstakes Trophy again

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI once again dominated the weeklong Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam, with the Marianas High School Glee Club being hailed as the festival's overall champion. This marks two years in a row for the MHS Glee Club to take home the prestigious Sweepstakes Trophy.

» Manta Ray Band bags gold in HS band division

The good news was relayed to Saipan Tribune yesterday by MHS faculty adviser and National Forensic League chair Harold Easton, after the formal announcement by the festival's founder, Maximo Ron-

quillo Jr.

"The faculty of the 2013 Tumon Bay Music Festival is proud to announce the selection of the Marianas High School Glee Club-Rhythm

See MHS on Page 4



CLARISSA V. DAVID

The Commonwealth Development Authority board of directors and staff convene yesterday for a special meeting at their office in Wakin's Building along Middle Road.

CDA OKs 'limited' QC for Saipan Surfrider

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority board approved yesterday a "limited" qualifying certificate for project developer Saipan Surfrider, LLC, which plans to build a hotel in Chalan Kanoa.

During a special meeting, the board

also unanimously voted to recommend to Gov. Eloy S. Inos the approval of Saipan Surfrider's QC application that would allow it to obtain tax breaks, based on certain conditions and requirements.

Saipan Surfrider, LLC plans to build the Surfrider Resort Spa & Beach Club at the sites of the former Pacific Gardenia and Silver Hotel. It submitted late

last year a QC application requesting tax breaks on the business gross revenue, excise, bar, and developer taxes.

R. Dan Murrell, Triple J Enterprises senior vice president who represented Saipan Surfrider at the meeting, thanked the board for its decision but refused to provide further comments.

CDA staff recommended the approv-

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Life in Motion

Local

Businesses get snapshot of what to expect

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos gave yesterday a snapshot of what existing and potential investors in the CNMI can expect from his administration which he said will be transparent, collaborative, “will eliminate wasteful spending,” and supports a request to skip this year’s 50-cent minimum wage increase to give breathing room to employers still reeling from a listless economic.

He will also be formally requesting soon the U.S. Department of Labor to extend up to 2019 the federal immigration transition period—set to expire on Dec. 31, 2014—to allow continued access to over 12,000 foreign workers.

Inos, who ascended to his post on Feb. 20 after what he called a “political crisis,” also reiterated his priority areas: the tourism-based economy, improving the healthcare system, prolonging the lifespan of the NMI Retirement Fund, and lowering utility costs.

Inos advocates the use of alternative or renewable energy sources.

The governor said yesterday he and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) will have a cooperative relationship “so we can come up with a unified voice before the nation’s capital to ensure maximum assistance and attention to our islands.”

“I agree that the Commonwealth is not ready for the 2014 end of the transition period. We still lack resident labor pool. It is for that reason that our administration supports Congressman Kilili’s recent letter to the U.S. Department of Labor requesting five-year extension and we hope that we get favorable approval to that request. I will be sending an official communication to the U.S. Department of Labor secretary also asking a five-year extension,” Inos told the crowd of businesspeople, Chamber guests, and some of his Cabinet

members at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe yesterday.

Inos was a guest speaker at yesterday’s Saipan Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting.

“First off, I want to be clear that this administration is going to be open, transparent, with a renewed spirit of collaboration...to improve the lives of our people,” he said.

The governor called on the business community, other elected leaders, and every member of the community to work with his administration and give their inputs on how to make the CNMI a better place.

“I’m all about solution and getting things done for the benefit of our community. Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider and I, together with our team, [need] your support, for us to make a positive difference for our people. Together, we can make the CNMI one of the best places in the Pacific to live, work and raise our families,” he said, drawing applause from the crowd.

On tourism

Inos said the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan “is long overdue for a major upgrade.”

“In the short-term, we should be able to get better lighting, cleaner sidewalks and streets, and improved public safety. And in due time, with the help of the Tourism Task Force, we will lay out a comprehensive plan to revitalize PDM, the tourist district, and tourist sites throughout the island,” he said.

Citing industry reports, Inos said 2013 promises to be a better year for visitor arrivals especially from China, adding to arrivals from Korea, Japan, and other markets. He said the CNMI continues to see an upward trend in Russian arrivals.

He said the hotel industry needs to ensure there’s sufficient number of quality rooms for visitors.

“Government must be a strong partner with the private sector and community to

strengthen tourism activities, sports, arts, culture, and entertainment. So we will work with businesses and stakeholders to improve and maintain our infrastructure, beaches, roads and parks. Visitors must have a positive impression of our islands—safe, fun, and wholesome experience,” he said.

The governor said workforce is an important issue and he would work with education agencies and the private sector in the development of a travel academy curriculum that has been done in tourist destinations such as Hawaii to help prepare those who want to pursue a career in travel and tourism.

He added that the approval of a Regional EB5 center will help attract foreign investors to the CNMI.

On minimum wage

Inos told Chamber members and guests that he and the delegate agreed to come up with a plan that they can present before Congress to minimize the rate of minimum wage increase in the CNMI.

A federal law requires the CNMI to increase its minimum wage every year by 50 cents until it reaches the minimum wage floor of \$7.25 an hour.

The CNMI’s current minimum wage is \$5.55 an hour, and is scheduled to increase to \$6.05 an hour in September.

“Because of the struggling economy and the increase in costs of operating business, I don’t feel that minimum wage increase at this time is appropriate,” he said, adding that skipping this September’s increase will “give breathing room for the private sector, the employers, to recover from the poor economic condition.”

Richard Pierce, executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, reiterated the business organization’s request for a reprieve from the minimum wage hike and the extension of the federalization transition period.

Bob Bracken, a businessman, said in his view, Inos will bring “positive change.”

“I think he’s up for the job,” he added.

‘Political crisis’

Before spelling out his economic plans, Inos thanked the CNMI people for their patience and for weathering a political crisis.

He was referring to the issues leading to the resignation of former governor Benigno R. Fitial on Feb. 20, days before the March 7 start of his impeachment trial at the Senate. The House of Representatives impeached Fitial on 18 charges of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty.

Inos, a former lieutenant governor, will be finishing the remainder of Fitial’s term ending in January 2015. Inos is expected to run in the November 2014 general elections.

This comes at a time when the CNMI is facing cuts in federal funding it relies on for its programs because of the so-called “sequestration,” a series of automatic, across-the-board cuts to U.S. government agencies totaling \$1.2 trillion over 10 years.

Inos said his administration will try to minimize the impact by prioritizing spending, increasing efficiency and suspending or eliminating some programs and positions, among other things.

Inos said that within days of assuming his post, his office received calls and requests to “clean up the Cabinet” by removing certain individuals.

“No, I will not do that. I will review and evaluate the performance of each member of this administration and work on that basis. It will be performance-based and anyone who does not perform, of course, deserves to be given the opportunity to improve, and if not, we will ask for their cooperation and have other people come in and do the job,” he said.

Inos weighs immigration status of long-term foreign workers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The two-week-old Inos administration is keeping an open mind on the immigration status of long-term foreign workers, citing the “contentious” nature of the issue. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) continues to work with his colleagues in Congress and the Obama administration in ensuring that the CNMI is included in any national immigration reform legislation.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday he’s “still studying” the issue.

“That’s a very contentious issue at the national level. As you know there’s the conservative view of just going through the normal path to citizenship. There’s also the other view of accelerated citizenship and so we’ll see which one is more appropriate and applicable for our folks over here,” Inos said in an interview at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting.

Whichever path is chosen should be consistent with “the nature and available window that folks who might fit in that category have,” Inos said.

“For example, if it requires folks to be here or say if they’re looking at folks who have been here for the last 10 years, and the CW [program] ends in five years...it’s not consistent so we need to address that as well,” he said.

Inos is also cognizant of the need to protect the rights of long-term nonresident workers.

“We need to make sure that what we plan to do is consistent with what our congressman is doing over there. Once we start different paths then that’s just going to create more problems for any assistance that might be heading our way,” Inos added.

Sablan also plans to reintroduce a more inclusive version of his H.R. 1466, seeking a CNMI resident status to certain groups of long-term non-residents. This time, however, the bill could be crafted to provide pathway to U.S. citizenship.

In May 2010, the U.S. Department of the Interior submitted a report to Congress recommending granting long-term legal aliens in the CNMI improved status including pathway to citizenship but the recommendation has yet to be heeded.

Inos wants Lifofoi to stay at CPA

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Jose Lifofoi will retain his post at the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors after Gov. Eloy S. Inos declined to accept his courtesy resignation.

Press secretary Angel Demapan confirmed yesterday that the governor formally sent a notice to Lifofoi to inform him of his decision.

Lifofoi turned in his courtesy resignation last week to give the new governor a free hand to select or retain officials of his choice.

“Gov. Inos and Lt. Gov. Hofschneider believe that Mr. Lifofoi is an asset to the CPA board and desire that he continue his valuable service to our community,” said Demapan.

Besides Lifofoi, four other members of the board submitted courtesy resignations to the governor last week. They included board vice chair Manny Villagomez of Tinian, Barrie Toves of Rota, and Saipan representatives Benigno Sablan and Margaret Prater.

According to Demapan, Inos has yet to decide on the resignations of Lifofoi’s colleagues. “The other resigna-

tions, which were submitted at a later date, remain pending review,” he added.

Inos, in his letter to Lifofoi, indicated that he and the lieutenant governor appreciate Lifofoi’s courtesy in tendering his resignation. However, Inos advised the board chairman that they have decided not to accept the resignation.

“We sincerely appreciate your contributions and believe that you will continue

to be an asset to our administration and the people we duly serve,” stated Inos’ letter.

Lifofoi was re-elected chairman of the ports authority board in January.

Besides the CPA board, Lifofoi is also chairman of the United Micronesia Development Association, Inc. He was also House speaker of the 5th CNMI Legislature, and also the Republic of Palau’s honorary consul general to the CNMI.

Lifofoi quit the ports authority board in 2007 but was re-appointed a year later and has since then been the board’s top official. He was reappointed to another four-year term after his term expired in 2011. Lifofoi’s new term at CPA ends on Jan. 17, 2015.

Cause of fire at recycling center yet to be determined

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has yet to determine the cause of a fire that engulfed about 200 junk cars at a new recycling center in Lower Base early Monday morning.

Police spokesman Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr. said yesterday that arson investigators are still looking into the fire that struck the FSM Recycling Saipan, Inc.

“Arson or reckless burning has not been ruled in the incident,” said Blas.

He urged anyone having information in this case to call ar-

son investigators at 664-9051 or the Crime Stoppers Tips Line at 234-7272.

Blas said that patrol and traffic officers responded to a call on Monday at 2:17am about a fire at the recycling center, located across the Saipan Mayor’s Office storage establishment.

When the officers arrived, they saw that the fire has already engulfed a wide area of the recycling center’s compound, Blas said.

DPS Fire Suppression Unit Engine 1 arrived at the scene at 2:19am and relayed the situation to other responding fire crews.

Blas said Fire Engine 1,



CRBNE Unit (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive), Rescue 1, and Medics 2 also helped suppress the fire.

Blas said the fire was eventually controlled at 3:49am and that no one was injured.

Blas said the origin of the fire

was traced to the northern gate of the compound. Jae Guk Yoon, 53, owner of FSM Recycling Saipan, Inc., points to the location where the fire started, affecting 200 junk vehicles in the compound. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

was traced to the northern gate of the compound.

Jae Guk Yoon, 53, owner of the recycling center, told reporters on Tuesday that he believes that the fire was intentionally set off.

The center just opened on Jan. 5, 2013, and that its grand opening will be on March 15, 2013.

DUE TO LENGTHY RAP SHEET

All CNMI attorneys conflicted out in Crisostomo case

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Superior Court will appoint an attorney from Guam to represent habitual offender Joseph Acosta Crisostomo, who is being charged in the kidnapping and murder of bartender Emerita Romero, as his long list of pending and prior cases have conflicted out all on-island attorneys.

"Mr. Crisostomo, it is official—there are no CNMI attorneys that can take your case!" Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho said yesterday.

Camacho postponed again

» Preliminary hearing delayed anew

yesterday's scheduled preliminary hearing and reset it to March 13 at 9am.

Camacho said four attorneys at the Public Defender's Office, attorney Colin Thompson, who is the designated conflicts-counsel, 49 private sector attorneys, and 16 in-house government and independent agency attorneys are all conflicted out.

The judge said many of these lawyers have represented victims and witnesses in Crisostomo's many criminal cases; others represent co-defendants in those criminal cases, as well as other conflicts.

"It has taken considerable

time, judicial resources and three court clerks to ensure that we contacted every attorney in the CNMI," Camacho said.

The U.S. and CNMI constitutions require the court to appoint an attorney to represent a defen-

dant in criminal cases who cannot pay for his or her own lawyer.

"We must look outside of the CNMI," Camacho said, adding that the court will contact attorneys at the Guam Public Defender's Office, the Guam

Alternate Defender's Office, as well as Guam-based attorneys who are also licensed to practice in the Commonwealth.

Police arrested Crisostomo on Feb. 22 for the kidnapping and murder of Romero. Romero was reportedly kidnapped near her house in Garapan on Feb. 5, 2012. Two days later, FBI agents found her body at the abandoned

La Fiesta Mall in As Matuis.

Last year, Crisostomo's brother Calistro also conflicted out all lawyers in the CNMI, except for Rosemond Santos, also due to his extensive pending and prior criminal cases, as well as traffic cases.

In Calistro's case, the court didn't exhaust government and agency attorneys.

Man gets 5 years for 'ice' possession

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A scooter operator who was found in possession of less than a gram of methamphetamine or "ice" at a sobriety checkpoint in Chalan Piao was sentenced yesterday to the full maximum sentence of five years in prison.

Fu Zhu Lin will serve the sen-

tence day to day without the possibility of parole, probation, early release, work or weekend release, or any other similar program.

Lin, a Chinese national, was given credit for two days time served.

Assistant attorney general Margo Brown had recommended a sentence of four years in prison, with no parole. Lin's counsel, assistant public de-

fender Daniel Guidotti, asked the court to impose a sentence of one year and a half.

Guidotti said Lin is a non-violent defendant with no prior criminal case. He added that the "ice" involved in this case is only a small quantity worth about \$150.

In a bench trial on Tuesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho found Lin guilty of illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Lin testified that he was not aware it was "ice," thinking it was some type of medicine for headache.

Camacho did not buy this, noting that Lin tried to hide the "ice" by passing it to his passenger, Mei Ying Qi.

Police officers seized a small baggie containing "ice" after one officer saw Lin passing the item to Qi during a sobriety checkpoint on Dec. 24, 2011.

OAG argues for substituting the CNMI govt for Fitial in PPA suit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman heard yesterday the Office of the Attorney General's motion to substitute the CNMI government for former governor Benigno R. Fitial in the lawsuit filed against him by Rep. Janet U. Maratita (IR-Saipan) and others over the signing of the \$190.8-million power purchase agreement.

Wiseman also heard Fitial's motion to dismiss him from the lawsuit. The other motion was Saipan Development LLC's motion to lift the court's preliminary injunction. The Delaware-based Saipan Development is the PPA contractor.

After listening to the counsels' arguments, the judge placed the motions under advisement.

On Aug. 31, 2012, Wiseman granted Maratita's and co-plaintiffs' request to issue a preliminary injunction that bars Fitial and co-defendants from "continuing, pursuing, and/or performing on the power purchase agreement."

Fitial's counsel, assistant attorney general David Lochabay, asked the court to substitute the CNMI government for the former governor and dismiss the latter from the lawsuit.

Lochabay cited Public Law 15-22, the Government Liability Act, which provides for the mandatory substitution of the CNMI in cases where Commonwealth employees are being sued in their individual capacities for actions taken within the scope of their employment.

Ramon Quichocho, counsel for the Senate, Maratita, and Sen. Ray A. Yumul (IR-Saipan), argued that since the Act specifically exempts a constitutional taxpayers' "civil action" from the exclusive remedy rule, Fitial's motion to substitute must be denied.

In an interview after the hearing, Lochabay said Public Law

15-22 requires that the government be substituted as a defendant when a government employee is sued for actions that were taken within the scope of his employment.

"If you didn't have a law like that nobody would run for work in the government. Certainly, nobody will run in hot positions in the government because they're going to be personally liable for everything that they can do," Lochabay said.

Quichocho pointed out that the Act does not apply to those who violate the CNMI Constitution so Fitial is a proper party in the case.

On the issue of the preliminary injunction's relevance, Quichocho said there is still a PPA that is a live contract.

"So that's the very thing we're trying to have the court declare void. Of course it's relevant. The effects of it against the people of the CNMI are still very real if the preliminary injunction is lifted. Thankfully, there is a preliminary injunction at this point," Quichocho said.

Saipan Development LLC counsel William Fitzgerald said the injunction is pretty much irrelevant at this point since the CNMI government has informed his client that they're not intending to go forward with the PPA contract.

"So there is nothing really to enjoin because there's not going to be a contract," Fitzgerald said.

When asked if Saipan Development is thinking of suing Fitial and the CNMI government, Fitzgerald said there is a potential for breach of contract but whether or not they will do it remains to be seen.

"How many unpaid judgments are pending against the CNMI government? So even if you got a judgment, will they pay it?" Fitzgerald asked.

The plaintiffs want the court to declare the 25-year PPA "unconstitutional, illegal, unconscionable, and unjust, and therefore, cancelled."

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CHAVEZ

From Page 1

for socialism. He fashioned himself after 19th-century independence leader Simon Bolivar and renamed his country the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

During more than 14 years in office, his leftist politics and grandiose style polarized Venezuelans. The barrel-chested leader electrified crowds with his booming voice, and won admiration among the poor with government social programs and a folksy, nationalistic style.

Opponents seethed at the larger-than-life character who demonized them on television and ordered the expropriation of farms and businesses. Many in the middle class cringed at his bombast and complained about rising crime, soaring inflation and government economic controls.

Chavez used his country's oil wealth to launch social programs that included

state-run food markets, new public housing, free health clinics and education programs. While poverty declined during his presidency amid a historic boom in oil earnings, critics said he failed to use the windfall of hundreds of billions of dollars to develop the country's economy.

Inflation soared and the homicide rate rose to among the highest in the world.

Before his struggle with cancer, the charismatic leader appeared on television almost daily, speaking for hours and breaking into song or philosophical discourse. He often wore the bright red of his United Socialist Party of Venezuela, or the fatigues and red beret of his army days—the same uniform he donned in 1992 while leading an ill-fated coup attempt that first landed him in jail and then launched his political career.

The rest of the world watched as the country with the world's biggest proven oil reserves took a turn to the left under its unconventional leader,

who considered himself above all else a revolutionary.

"I'm still a subversive," Chavez told The Associated Press in a 2007 interview, recalling his days as a rebel soldier. "I think the entire world has to be subverted."

Chavez was a master communicator and savvy political strategist, and managed to turn his struggle against cancer into a rallying cry, until the illness finally defeated him.

From the start, he billed himself as the heir of Bolivar, who led much of South America to independence, often speaking beneath the 19th-century liberator's portrait and presenting replicas of his sword to allies. He built a soaring mausoleum in Caracas to house the remains of "El Libertador."

Chavez also was inspired by his mentor Fidel Castro and took on the Cuban leader's role as Washington's chief antagonist in the Western Hemisphere after the ailing Castro turned over the presidency to his brother Raul in 2006. Like Castro, Chavez decried

Hugo Chavez

President of Venezuela



Early years

Born 1954, in Barinas, Venezuela, to school teachers

Education Venezuelan Academy of Military Sciences, Caracas; Simon Bolivar University, Caracas

Political career

1983 Found the secret Revolutionary Bolivarian Movement-200 with fellow military officers

1992 Leads failed coup to oust President Carlos Perez; imprisoned for two years

1994 Establishes the Fifth Republic Movement, a left-wing socialist party

1998 Wins presidential election, promising "revolutionary" social policies

2000 Re-elected for six-year term under new constitution

2001 Says U.S. is fighting "terror with terror" in war in Afghanistan after 9-11 attacks

2002 Abortive coup topples him for two days

2006 Wins re-election

2009 Wins referendum lifting term limits on elected officials

2011 Begins cancer treatment

Oct. 2012 Re-elected again

Dec. 2012 Suffers new complications following cancer surgery

March 5, 2013 Dies after long battle with cancer

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Source: AP, BBC, MCT Photo Service

U.S.-style capitalism while forming alliances throughout Latin America and with distant powers such as Russia, China and Iran.

Supporters eagerly raised Chavez to the pantheon of revolutionary legends ranging from Castro to Argentine-born rebel Ernesto "Che" Guevara. Chavez nurtured that cult of personality, and even as he stayed out of sight for long stretches during his bout with cancer, his out-sized image appeared on buildings and billboard throughout Venezuela. The airwaves boomed with his baritone mantra: "I am a nation." Supporters carried posters and wore masks of his eyes, chanting, "I am Chavez."

In the battles Chavez waged at home and abroad, he captivated his base by championing Venezuela's poor.

"This is the path: the hard, long path, filled with doubts, filled with errors, filled with bitterness, but this is the path," Chavez told his backers in 2011. "The path is this: socialism."

On television, he would lambast his opponents as "oligarchs," scold his aides, tell jokes, reminisce about his childhood, lecture Venezuelans on socialism and make sudden announcements, such as expelling the U.S. ambassador or ordering tanks to Venezuela's border with Colombia.

Chavez carried his in-your-face style to the world stage as well. In a 2006 speech to the U.N. General Assembly, he called President George W. Bush the devil, saying the podium reeked of sulfur after the U.S. president's address.

At a summit in 2007, he repeatedly called Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar a fascist, prompting Spain's King Juan Carlos to snap, "Why don't you shut up?"

Critics saw Chavez as a typical Latin American caudillo, a strongman who ruled through force of personality and showed disdain for democratic rules. Chavez concentrated power in his hands with allies who dominated the congress and justices who controlled the Supreme Court.

CDA

From Page 1

al of the QC application for BGRT and excise tax but with certain provisions. The board made changes to the recommended conditions and requirements during its over three-hour executive session Tuesday.

On the excise tax, the board approved "a 100 percent rebate on excise taxes for furniture, fixtures, and equipment...for the duration of construction activities subject to the cap on excise tax that have been set forth."

The excise tax relief is capped at \$57,000 and would exclude heavy equipment and light trucks. These benefits "shall cease upon commencement of full operations."

Meanwhile, BGRT relief is established as follows: a) 20 percent rebate on BGRT for years 1 through 6; b) 30 percent rebate on BGRT multiplied by the ratio of resident employees for years 1 through 6; c) 30 percent rebate on BGRT multiplied by the ratio of resident managerial employees for years 1 through 6; and d) 20 percent rebate on BGRT multiplied by the ratio of local purchases of goods and services used in the operations of the business to total purchases of the same goods and ser-

vices for years 1 through 6.

BGRT benefits are subject to a \$664,000 cap.

The board said that at the end of years 3, 4, and 5, Saipan Surfrider's cash flow position will be examined.

"After these examinations, if it is determined that Saipan Surfrider, LLC has achieved both a positive cash flow at the end of years 3, 4, and 5, and a cumulative positive cash flow at the end of that year, the benefits automatically cease," said the board.

The board also specified that the restaurants at the proposed hotel resort should not be Tony Roma's or Capriciosa, two restaurants already owned by Saipan Surfrider's affiliate, Triple J Enterprises, which are also enrolled in the QC program and the QC for which will expire within the month.

"If these restaurants are to be relocated to the [Surfrider Resort Spa & Beach Club], the BGRT benefit should exclude revenues from the two restaurants," said the board.

The QC approval also requires Saipan Surfrider to maintain and beautify the beach and pavilions at the Laly 4 Beach, which is within the project site. Beautification efforts shall include a once-a-month cleanup, yearly painting of the pavilions, and "maintenance and renovation as needed."

In an interview after Tuesday's meeting, board chair Pedro I. Itibus said the board came up with a decision that is "fair" for both the applicant and the CNMI.

Itibus said that in making the decision, the board took into consideration the financial analysis submitted by Saipan Surfrider, which reflected that the applicant is able to earn back its investment "within a short period of time" and given the abatement on BGRT and excise tax alone.

"Because of the way we looked at the financial inputs and gains, this is the best solution or reasons that we came up with," Itibus told *Saipan Tribune*.

He noted that CDA is "not anti-business" and would like to work closely with any developer interested in taking advantage of the agency's QC program.

Executive director Manuel A. Sablan agreed with the board's decision, saying that the conditions and requirements set are tied to the program's objective to generate economic activity and employment opportunities.

The construction of the \$12.1-million proposed hotel will be done in three phases. It will feature 60 hotel rooms, the main restaurant, a Korean BBQ restaurant, Japanese noodle house, beach club, modern health spa, and space rentals for shops.

MHS

From Page 1

'N Harmony as the Command Performance group for the 2013 Tumon Bay Music Festival," states the festival's announcement, commending the club's musical director Paul Dujua for a job well done.

As festival champion, the club's Rhythm 'N Harmony will perform in a traditional "Command Performance" on Saturday night at the Micronesia Mall. Awarding rites for the various categories and divisions will follow this performance. The big winner is slated to give a 25-minute performance.

This year is the Glee Club's second time at the festival. The group emerged the most outstanding in the choral competition category for high school, besting other contenders who were mostly from Guam.

Easton said the new honor only demonstrates and speaks well of the amazing talents of the group and the success of the school's music program, which

continues to draw the interest of students. Winning the prestigious competition is also a big success for MHS, the Public School System, and the CNMI as a whole, he added.

Easton said that MHS sent 19 students to the festival, including soloists.

Also joining the Guam festival this year are the popular Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band and the Koblerville Elementary School's Umang Glee Club.

The MHS Glee Club was formed in November 2010 and later competed in the 2011 Thespian Festival at the University of Lincoln-Nebraska.

Manta Ray Band bags gold, performs for GuamGov

According to Manta Ray Band musical director Will DeWitt, the band captured the gold award once again in the high school band division and will be performing at the awards ceremony on March 9 as the "Showcase Ensemble."

"The judges and audience had very high praise for our students and they delivered a jaw-dropping performance.

This is their fourth straight victory in the high school band division dating back to 2008!" said DeWitt, who also congratulated fellow CNMI musicians from MHS for winning the Sweepstakes Trophy.

"Though we are a bit disappointed in not winning the Sweepstakes award this year, we hope that our PSS leadership will reward the efforts of our students and music educators by further expanding the opportunity to learn music at all public schools," said DeWitt.

The Manta Ray Band has been the festival's champion three times. The last time it bagged the honor was in 2011. The group skipped the event in 2012 to prepare for their London Olympics performance.

The Manta Ray Band also played for Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo on Tuesday at Tumon's beach amphitheater.

This week, the band is collaborating with musicians around the region for the Tumon Bay International Wind Orchestra and the All Island HS Honor Band. All of its members were selected to participate in these two ensembles.

ESCORTS

From Page 1

a \$25,000 cash bail for each defendant.

Deleon Guerrero said that Nekaifes was arrested at DPS in Susupe, while Kosam and Rebuenog were arrested at their respective homes on Capital Hill and Kagman.

Office of the Public Auditor personally reported served the arrest warrants.

Deleon Guerrero said that DPS and OPA are going to issue a statement today, Thursday, about the case.

Sources said the three were arrested on charges of conspiracy and obstruction of justice for helping Buckingham flee Saipan.

Saipan Tribune sources said that DPS deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogomoro and many others are expected to be arrested as well for conspiracy and obstruction of justice, among other things.

Deleon Guerrero refused to comment if Ogomoro would also be arrested. He disclosed that Ogomoro left for Canada Tuesday morning for an official trip.

The Office of Public Auditor filed criminal charges against Buckingham in connection with an alleged violation of election laws and illegal awards of a sole-source contract, among others.

An FBI special agent served Buckingham with the penal summons at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport shortly before he and his wife left Saipan on a 6am Delta Air Lines flight to Narita, Japan on Aug. 4, 2012.

Sources said that at least one police

officer who received "direct instruction from Fitial" to stay away from serving the penal summons to Buckingham may turn "state witness."

Lawmakers—including House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero—that supported the impeachment of Fitial welcomed this latest development.

"All of us saw from the news coverage at the airport that morning the ones involved. Everybody knew it's improper to prevent the serving of a penal summons. I am pleased that our law enforcement officers are being held accountable for their actions. I believe that's what's happening now," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* last night when asked for comment.

He reiterated that these police officers "did not do it on their own."

The impeachment resolution against Fitial included those in connection with the use of police and ports police officers to escort and shield Buckingham in August 2012.

"I believe they were instructed to do that. I hope that eventually, the person who gave them the instruction will also be held accountable," the speaker added.

During the impeachment hearings last year, Rebuenog, one of the law enforcers who escorted Buckingham and his wife Pam at the airport, told the Impeachment Committee that he was told by DPS deputy commissioner Ogomoro that Buckingham "does not want to be bothered by the media" so he was given escorts.

Ogomoro and other law enforcement officers invoked their Fifth Amendment right during the impeachment hearings.

Education board eyes taking back child care program

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI State Board of Education wants to reclaim the Childcare Development Program from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, according to board chair Herman T. Guerrero.

Guerrero said the board and

Fund transfers suit against NMI govt to federal court

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund yesterday removed its 2006 lawsuit against the CNMI government from the Superior Court to the federal court.

The Fund, through trustee *ad litem* Joseph Razzano, filed a notice of removal in the U.S. District Court for the NMI of its lawsuit because of the Commonwealth Ports Authority's filing last Feb. 13 of a motion for writ of mandamus in the Superior Court.

Attorney Daniel J. Berman, counsel for the Fund, said that CPA's motion purports to assert a claim and cause of action against Razzano and Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan to compel immediate distribution of all Public Law 17-82 money related to employee contributions.

Public Law 17-82 that allows Fund members to withdraw the full amount of their contributions without separating from the government.

CPA said that P.L. 17-82 imposes clear, nondiscretionary duties on the Fund and its administrator to approve and pay out employee funds.

In the Fund's notice of re-

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., will arrange an appointment with Gov. Eloy S. Inos to convince him to hand over the program to the school system.

He said PSS is the best equipped agency and has the expertise to successfully run the child care operation.

The program was under PSS for 15 years before it was turned

moval, Berman said CPA's motion against Razzano is in violation of the federal court's order.

Berman said that designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood's order appointing the trustee *ad litem* also states that "no suit shall be filed against the trustee *ad litem* without the consent of this court."

Berman said the district court created the trustee *ad litem* and it alone has the power to declare when and by whom it can be sued.

CPA counsel Robert Torres said yesterday that they will respond to this court action.

Torres said CPA and its employees have great concerns regarding the handling of the matter inasmuch as the Fund brought the case in Superior Court all the way to judgment.

"This is not a new action and CPA will continue to assert and protect its interests, disagreeing with the approach of the trustee but agreeing only in the intended goal of obtaining satisfaction of judgment," Torres said.

The Fund filed the lawsuit in Superior Court in 2006 against then Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, the CNMI government, and co-defendants over the government's failure to remit required payments to the Fund.

Pacific Heritage Hub launches

UNESCO World Heritage's newest arm in the Pacific was launched in Suva earlier this week by Suzanne Wilson, acting Australian high commissioner in Fiji.

The Pacific Heritage Hub, covering 22 Pacific Island countries and territories, will be the link between UNESCO world heritage committee in Paris, Pacific Island governments, institutions, organizations and indigenous communities.

Speaking at the launch, Wilson said the Pacific Heritage Hub will further the reach and depth of the UNESCO world heritage convention in the Pacific and take Pacific heritage onto the global stage. More significantly, it will coordinate capacity building opportunities that will enable Pacific peoples to manage their own cultural and natural heritage.

The Pacific region is the most under-presented on the UNESCO world heritage list although it has many cultural sites and natural ecosystem that could be

of outstanding universal value to humanity. The Hub has been established as a communication and exchange point to assist Pacific government put sites onto the UNESCO world heritage list and to assist existing Pacific sites improve management practices through capacity-building.

The current Pacific sites on the UNESCO world heritage list are: Kuk Early Agricultural site (Papua New Guinea), Bikini Atoll Nuclear site (Marshall Islands), Chief Roi Mata's domain (Vanuatu), Rapa Nui National Park (Chile), Phoenix Islands Protected Area (Kiribati), Reefs and Lagoons of New Caledonia (France), Rock Islands—Southern Lagoon (Belau), and Lake Tegano—East Rennell (Solomon Islands).

Of the more than 900 sites on the UNESCO world heritage list, only eight are from the Pacific. The Pacific Heritage Hub is tasked to work with partners in remedying this deficiency. (PR)

over to DCCA in 2007 under an executive order signed by former governor Benigno R. Fitial.

The federal program provides the CNMI a \$1.9-million annual grant that pays for the services of child care centers.

Guerrero, who is also chairman of the board's legislative and intergovernmental

affairs committee, cited several reasons why the program needs to be returned to PSS.

First, the child care program is not being run well by DCCA, he said. "In its current state, it is not being well run. PSS still has the regulations for the program, which we believe should not have

been taken from PSS in the first place. Perhaps under the new administration, they can see that

PSS is better suited to handle the CCDF," said Guerrero.

DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao has yet to comment on the proposal as of yesterday.

Press secretary Angel Demapan told

Saipan Tribune that a decision on this matter will depend on the completion of the review process being undertaken by the new administration on all government agencies and programs.

"Gov. Inos and Lt. Gov. Hofschneider are currently in the process of reviewing the perfor-

mance of all departments under the Executive Branch, including DCCA. Based on this review, the governor and lieutenant governor will be able to determine what programs and policies are effective and which are not. Thus it is most appropriate to wait until such time that they have had a chance to complete this review as well as have an opportunity to look into PSS' proposal," said Demapan.

PSS is launching its "P-3 Initiative" and Guerrero described the child care program as an important component of this effort. He emphasized the need for the child care program to have an "educational component" so that children are better prepared to start school.

"I believe that DCCA does not have the expertise with regards to education and we need to make sure that our kids are prepared and ready to move on—from day care to head start, to kindergarten and onwards," added Guerrero.

According to board member Lucy Blanco-Maratita, the child care program is critical to the success of the P-3 Initiative. She said research has shown that the "earlier you work to get them ready for school, the more successful they will be."

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Legal Notice

If You Currently or Previously Owned, Purchased, or Leased Certain Toyota, Lexus, or Scion Vehicles,

You Could Get Benefits from a Class Action Settlement.

There is a proposed settlement in a class action lawsuit against Toyota Motor Corp. and Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. ("Toyota") concerning certain vehicles with electronic throttle control systems ("ETCS"). Those included in the settlement have legal rights and options and deadlines by which they must exercise them.

What is the lawsuit about?

The lawsuit alleges that certain Toyota, Lexus, and Scion vehicles equipped with ETCS are defective and can experience unintended acceleration. Toyota denies that it has violated any law, denies that it engaged in any and all wrongdoing, and denies that its ETCS is defective. The Court did not decide which side was right. Instead, the parties decided to settle.

Am I Included in the proposed settlement?

Subject to certain limited exclusions, you are included if as of **December 28, 2012**,

- You own or owned, purchase(d), and/or lease(d) a "Subject Vehicle" that was
- Distributed for sale or lease in any of the fifty States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and all other United States territories and/or possessions or
- Were a company that insured Subject Vehicles for residual value.

The Subject Vehicles are identified at the settlement website and in the full settlement notice available on the website or through the toll-free number below. The class includes persons, entities and/or organizations.

This settlement does not involve claims of personal injury or property damage.

What does the settlement provide?

The proposed settlement provides for: (a) cash payments from two funds totaling \$500 million for certain eligible class members; (b) free installation of

a brake override system on certain Subject Vehicles; (c) a customer support program to correct any defect in materials or workmanship of certain vehicle parts for other eligible class members; and (d) at least \$30 million toward automobile safety research and education. Some of these benefits require action by class members by or before certain deadlines.

Payments will vary depending upon several factors such as the number of claims submitted, the amounts claimed, and other adjustments and deductions.

What are my options?

If you do nothing, you will remain in the class and will not be able to sue Toyota about the issues in the lawsuit, but you may not receive certain cash benefits for which you may be eligible.

You can exclude yourself by **May 13, 2013**, if you don't want to be part of the settlement. You won't get any settlement benefits, but you keep the right to sue Toyota about the issues in the lawsuit.

You can submit a claim form by **July 29, 2013**, if you don't exclude yourself, for any cash benefits for which you are eligible and which require a claim form.

You can object to all or part of the settlement by **May 13, 2013**, if you don't exclude yourself.

The full settlement notice describes how to exclude yourself, submit a claim form and/or object.

The Court will hold a fairness hearing on **June 14, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.** to (a) consider whether the proposed settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and (b) decide the plaintiffs' lawyers' request for fees up to \$200 million and expenses up to \$27 million and other awards for Named Plaintiffs and Class Representatives. You may appear at the hearing, but you are not required to and you may hire an attorney to appear for you, at your own expense.

For more information or a claim form:

1-877-283-0507 www.toyotaelsettlement.com

Six schools to vie for 2013 mock trial title today

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Six public and private schools have registered to compete in the 2013 high school mock trial contest, the initial rounds of which will begin today at the Guma Hustisia in Susupe.

This year's participants are student teams from the Dr. Rita Hocog Inos High School, Tinian High School, Saipan Southern High School, Marianas

Baptist Academy, two teams from Marianas High School, and two teams from Mount Carmel School.

Organized by the CNMI Bar Association with the assistance of the Judiciary, the competition's first round will start today at 1pm, with the finals to occur tomorrow, March 8, at 3:30pm.

Mock trial is a scholastic competition among public and private schools throughout the CNMI. It was started in 1999

by the CNMI Bar Association and former justice Ramon Vilagomez as a way to introduce high school students to the justice system.

During competition, students will portray the role of attorneys and witnesses and must present both sides of a fictional case as the plaintiff and defense. Participants will be judged based on their knowledge of the evidence and ability to present a logical and persuasive case. CNMI

judges and attorneys will serve as presiding judges and jurors/evaluators for the competition.

Mount Carmel School was last year's big winner and will defend the title in the two-day contest. This year's champion team will fly to Indianapolis, Indiana in May to represent the CNMI at the national competition.

Each participating school receives a fictitious case file complete with witness statements, exhibits, rules of evi-

dence, and an abbreviated law library. Teams comprising 6-10 students have spent months practicing with the assistance of their volunteer attorney and teacher coaches to prepare for the competition.

This year's case takes place in a fictional village of Maugville where the use of social media may have cost a police detective his/her job. Detective Robin E. Taro is suing police chief Bobbie Lemmai, claiming that he/she was fired from his/her job due to posts he/she made on a social networking site, in violation of his/her right to free speech.

Sponsors of the event include

Fiesta Resort & Spa, Pacific Trading Co., IT&E, Docomo Pacific, XEROX Corp., Coca Cola Beverage Co., Hyatt Regency Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Saipan Ice & Water Co., Pacific Islands Club, Topnotch, Subway Restaurants, Mariana Resort & Spa, Joeten Charitable Foundation, Herman's Bakery, McDonald's of Saipan, National Office Supply, Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, Sen. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), Rep. Richard B. Seman (R-Saipan), Commissioner of Education Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., and the Public School System.

Public library schedules 20th anniversary celebration in May

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is set to celebrate its 20th anniversary in May, five months behind the state library's actual anniversary month.

Erlinda Naputi, coordinator for the JKPL Children of Our Homeland Center, said Tuesday that the supposed December 2012 anniversary festivities have been pushed back due to the ongoing roof repairs at the Susupe building.

Naputi said the anniversary celebration is slated for May 25, a Friday, with additional details to be provided soon.

The JKPL, through the anniversary committee, is hosting a series of fundraising events in the days leading to the upcoming celebration.

The library will conduct a rummage sale on Saturday, March 23, from 7:30am to noon. Naputi said interested vendors can rent a 10x20 foot-space for \$25.

"Slots are limited, so it's a first-come, first-served basis. Payment is required upon reservation," she added.

Naputi said they conducted their first anniversary rummage and book sale last Feb. 23 which

had a "good" turnout as it generated over \$343 in book sales and space rental from nine vendors.

She noted that this month's rummage sale will not coincide with a book sale, saying that the anniversary committee decided to separate the two fundraising events to avoid overwhelming the staff when customers flock to the library grounds.

On March 25, which marks Commonwealth Covenant Day, the JKPL will host a fundraising luncheon at Pacific Islands Club from 11am to 2pm. Luncheon costs \$40 for adults and \$20 for children age 4 to 11 years old.

Furthermore, the state library has begun selling their 20th anniversary souvenir shirt, which comes in various colors and sizes for \$15 apiece.

Naputi urged the public to take part in the fundraising activities as all proceeds will benefit the anniversary celebration and the numerous programs that the JKPL offers.

"Please support the library which has been serving the island community for 20 years," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

For more information, visit JKPL along Beach Road in Susupe, call 235-7316/22/23 or fax 235-7550.

New access procedures at Naval Base Guam, hospital

Due to the current fiscal environment, Naval Base Guam will implement new procedures at the main gate and U.S. Naval Hospital for those requiring guest and vehicle passes to enter the installation.

Effective yesterday, March 6, those requesting a guest/vehicle pass for NBG main base or USNH will need to first go to the Visitor Control Center outside the NBG main gate between the hours of 6:30am and 5:30pm Monday through Friday, and 8am to 5pm Saturdays and Sundays. During non-VCC working hours, all passes will

be issued by the gate guard.

The only exception to this is if a person is visiting a patient at the hospital. In this case, the visitor will be required to provide the name of the patient to the USNH guard. The guard will verify the name with USNH and conduct a routine vehicle check including current registration, insurance, and a driver's license. Once approved, the guard will issue a one-day pass. All visitors are to proceed directly to the hospital and exit the installation through the gate upon completion of the visit. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This photo shows the first two buyers of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's 20th anniversary shirt. Shirt sales is only among the several activities lined up by the state library in the days leading to its anniversary celebration on May 25.

Kiosku honorees urged to form non-profit group

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council wants the Leadership Memorial Kiosku honorees, along with their family members, to organize and become registered as a nonprofit organization.

Council chair Ramon B. Camacho said Tuesday that transforming the group into a nonprofit would allow them to avail of grants that would fund improvements and maintenance of the Saipan & Northern Islands Leadership Memorial Kiosku in Chalan Kanoa.

The \$551,000 *kiosku* or roundhouse, which officially opened to the public last Sept. 29, honors some 354 island leaders who have contributed to the political and socio-economic development of Saipan and the Northern Islands.

"Once the honorees become a nonprofit organization, they can elect their own leaders," said Camacho.

He noted, however, that the council will remain involved in the *kiosku* by serving in an advisory capacity.

The *kiosku* is open to the public Monday to Friday from 7:30am to 4:30pm, and on



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Title V employee Tom Pinaula is seen watering the plants at the Saipan & Northern Islands Leadership Memorial Kiosku on Tuesday.

Saturday from 8am to noon or 9am to 1pm.

At present, the *kiosku* is maintained by council staffer Tony Manglona and Title V employee Tom Pinaula. Nearby business Kevin's Mart has volunteered its security officers to include the *kiosku* when patrolling at night.

Pinaula said in a separate interview that Japanese, Chinese, and Russian tourists visit the

kiosku on weekdays, while local residents comprise majority of their visitors on weekends.

According to Camacho, they are still waiting for another Title V employee to allow them to open the *kiosku* throughout the weekend.

Meanwhile, Camacho said the council is working with the CNMI Archives, the CNMI Museum, and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library

to have historical mementos exhibited at the *kiosku*.

Camacho said representatives from each institution have already formed a committee to make this plan a reality to encourage more visitors to stop by the *kiosku*.

For more information, stop by the Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council next to the Chalan Kanoa post office or call 664-2700.



Participants of the tenth cohort of the Framingham master's in education program pose with Framingham professor Dr. Betsey Whitman, seated. The program is a collaborative effort between Framingham State University and the Northern Marianas College. NMC

NMC and Framingham launch 10th cohort program

Framingham State University and Northern Marianas College have joined forces again to train a new cohort of students who will be working toward their master's degree in education.

The graduate program, which culminates in a degree conferred by the Framingham State University, presents a unique opportunity for students living and working in the CNMI to advance both academically and professionally.

Many of the graduates of the cohort program are now employed by the CNMI Public School System as teachers, principals, and administrators.

The classes for the program are scheduled in a way that recognizes that many of the students hold full-time jobs and are balancing many obligations. As such, the courses are provided in a condensed

but convenient format supported by prior readings, and culminate in a final project. The instructional content of the classes are delivered through both online formats as well as in-class sessions, which are led by Framingham professors who travel to the CNMI to meet personally with the cohort participants.

"Framingham gave me the opportunity to collaborate, explore, and most importantly, strengthen my skills as an educator," said Francine Camacho, a graduate of the program and who now works as a first grade teacher at GTC Elementary School for the CNMI Public School System. Camacho also earned her bachelor's degree in education from the Northern Marianas College.

Since the start of the collaborative effort between the

college and Framingham State University, 177 individuals (employed by the CNMI Public School System, Northern Marianas College, private schools, and other organizations) have completed the program. The graduation of the current cohort of students will raise the number of graduates

obtaining a master's degree from Framingham State University past 200.

The Northern Marianas College offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education,

or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term

certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

Individuals interested in joining the next cohort may contact Floyd Masga at the Northern Marianas College Community Development Institute at 234-5498 Ext. 1019/1030 or email floyd@mnmnet.edu. (NMC)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free lifeguard certification training

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct a free lifeguard certification training for qualified individuals. Space is limited. Contact Kennedy Benjamin at 234-3459 to register. For more information on Red Cross courses, visit www.redcross.org/take-a-class. (PR)

Half-day session today for MHS

Marianas High School will have a half-day session today, March 7, 2013, due to the distribution of mid-progress reports, which will be held at the Marianas High School Gymnasium from 4pm to 6pm. All students will be released at 1pm.

Air Force, Navy training on FDM

The U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on March 7 and 8, from

8am to 1am. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

Friends of the Arts auditions for 'Miss Saigon'

The Friends of the Arts will be presenting Claude-Michel Schönberg and Alain Boublil's *Miss Saigon* on May 3, 4, and 5. Interested performers and would-be performers are invited to try out. Auditions will be held at the Dolphin Theater in Marianas High School on Tuesday, March 12, from 6pm to 8pm. (PR)

UOG to host Marianas History Conference

The 2013 Marianas History Conference, "One Archipelago, Many Stories: Integrating Our Narratives," will be held in Guam on Aug. 30-31, 2013. Abstracts for papers and posters may be submitted at guampedia.com by April 3, 2013. The Guampedia website also accepts conference registration with an early registration fee of \$25 or \$10 for

students with a valid ID. The number of registrants will be capped at 220. Late registration is \$40.

For more information, visit www.guampedia.com/the-2nd-marianas-history-conference, or contact Dr. Anne Perez Hattori (ahattori@uguam.uog.edu) or Dr. Michael Clement (mclement@uguam.uog.edu). (UOG)

PSS legislative summit next week

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System will host a legislative summit next week to give both new and incumbent legislators updated information on the state of the Commonwealth's education system.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., said the summit on March 13 at the Saipan World Resort will be attended by members of the Legislature, education officials, and community members.

Based on the agenda prepared by PSS, the summit will include presentations about the schools' finances, the system's goals and objectives, as well as challenges and expectations of the Board of Education.

According to Sablan, there will also be a panel discussion

where presiding officers of both the House of Representatives and Senate and chairmen of the education, health, and welfare committees will participate as presenters.

PSS' Five-Year Financial Plan will also be tackled, along with updates on strategic priorities as endorsed by the BOE in terms of student performance, types of parental engagement, and community partnership.

PSS is also gearing up for the system's 25th anniversary in the Commonwealth. Sablan has created an executive planning committee for the occasion.

In other news, Sablan said that PSS' audit for fiscal year 2012 is about 90 percent complete while the audit for fiscal year 2011 is expected to be completed by March 15.



Sablan



Notice to Public



The Public School System Early Intervention Program would like to inform parents of infants and toddlers who received Early Intervention Services at the Children's Developmental Assistance Center (C*DAC) from 2001 thru 2006, that your child's records are no longer needed by the program therefore will be destroyed in a manner that ensures all personal identifiers are removed from the record and the record is no longer personally identifiable.

The Early Intervention Program will, maintain indefinitely, a permanent record of your child's name, address, phone numbers, entry date, exit date, and eligibility information.

Records, other than the permanent information listed above, will be destroyed 30 days from the date of this notice.

For any other information, please call Robin Palacios, Interim Coordinator, Early Intervention Program at CDAC Tel. # 664-4841.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-OHS-014-COURTHOUSE**

SUBMISSION: APRIL 04, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**"TO FURNISH, DELIVER AND INSTALL AN X-RAY INSPECTION
SYSTEM FOR THE CNMI'S COURTHOUSE"**

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. CARL DELA CRUZ, OHS PROCUREMENT OFFICER BY E-MAIL TO ohs.delacruz@gmail.com NO LATER THAN THE **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MARCH 22, 2013.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARVIN K. SEMAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY
/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

CDA to move to new building by Apr. 1

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority targets to begin operations at its new office building in San Jose by April 1, according to office manager Christy N. Kintol.

Kintol said yesterday that Radiocom, contractor in charge of renovating the new CDA building, reported last week that it will finish construction work on the three-storey structure located along Beach Road by March 22.

At the same time, Kintol said the Department of Public Works

is working on the design layout for the parking lot.

"Both DPW and the contractor believe that we can begin moving furniture and equipment on March 23. We hope to open CDA at our new building on April 1," she said in an interview.

Kintol said that for now, it will be called CDA Building as the board has not decided whether or not it will be renamed.

The CDA Building has a total of 30 units, seven of which will be occupied by the agency. Of the seven units, two are on the ground floor and are reserved for reception, payment, and a conference room while the other

five units are on the second floor and reserved for staff offices.

Kintol noted that 15 units of the building are occupied by seven tenants, and CDA has yet to enter into any agreement with prospective tenants since taking over the building.

Besides the construction work, Kintol said they are also waiting for their order of wall panels, carpet, floor tiles, and other furnishings, which are expected to arrive by March 12 and installed by the contractor.

"Our goal is to remain open throughout our relocation process," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

However, Kintol said the

CDA staff and management will have to meet within the week or two to discuss if they will have the office blessing and ribbon cutting on April 1, Monday, or have it on April 5, Friday.

CDA is expected to save some \$6,500 once they move to the new building. Its lease with its Wakin's Building, where the office is currently located, will expire at the end of the month.

During a special meeting yesterday, executive director Manuel A. Sablan informed the CDA board of directors that the agency will start holding office in the San Jose building by April 1.

Fiji police probe alleged beatings of 2 prisoners

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Fijian police are investigating what appeared to be the brutal beatings of two recaptured prisoners on a graphic video widely shared this week on social media in the autocratic Pacific island nation.

The 9-minute video depicts at least eight plain-clothed men beating two handcuffed men. One of the victims is shown lying curled on the back of a truck while the other sits in a field nearby. In the video, the plain-clothed men hit the pair with long clubs and short batons. The victims can be heard wailing while the men laugh or whistle.

The Fiji Police Force said in a Tuesday statement it was "disturbed" to see the video of "what appears to be the abuse of two men who, at this stage, we understand to be recaptured prisoners."

The statement said Fijian security agencies have worked "tirelessly" to protect ordinary citizens from violent crimes but what is depicted in the video

"requires investigation."

Fijian leader Commodore Frank Bainimarama seized power in a 2006 coup, and since then, the former British colony has been isolated internationally for its failure to restore democracy. It has promised elections next year, but rights groups have expressed doubts about how democratic they will be.

Amnesty International raised concerns to Bainimarama about the treatment of five recaptured prisoners in a separate case last year. The rights group claimed the men were tortured and one had to have part of his leg amputated because of an open fracture.

Police told the Fiji Sun newspaper last year they were investigating that case and that the prisoner had diabetes.

After the new video surfaced, government spokeswoman Sharon Smith-Johns said Wednesday the government had no comment on the video and that police would not be comment-

ing further until their investigation was more complete.

The video was circulated this week in Fiji through emails, social media and on anti-government websites. It was also posted on YouTube. It remains unclear who shot or circulated the video.

At one point, one of the plain-clothed men uses a baton to sexually assault the victim on the truck. At another point, the victim on the truck is shown naked below the waist as he is beaten. Large purple welts are visible on his legs. At another point in the video, a dog held on a chain by one of the plain-clothed men drags the victim in the field a short distance. That victim's clothes are torn and appear to have blood on them.

One of the plain-clothed men appears to be recording the beatings on a cellphone.

Bainimarama had raised hopes in the international community last year when he announced plans to institute a new

constitution ahead of elections. But that process has proved controversial, and a series of decrees imposed by the regime this year have set hurdles for political participation.

One decree requires organizations to have at least 5,000 members from across the country to register as political parties. Another decree bans anybody affiliated with a trade union from seeking election and threatens media outlets with hefty penalties if they describe any unregistered groups as political parties.

Patrick Low, a spokesman for Australia's Foreign Minister Bob Carr, said Australia opposes the decrees.

"We are not giving up on the process," Low said. "The Fijian government says it remains committed to free and fair elections, and we want to encourage that. But steps away from that are unhelpful."

Low said Carr was trying to gather all the facts on the video before commenting on that.

UOG meeting for summer travel to Tibet, Nepal

There will be an information meeting today, March 7, at 3:30pm about the University of Guam's summer travel opportunity to the "Roof of the World" in Tibet and Nepal in the first floor conference room (Room No. 120) in the Humanities and Social Sciences building.

Participants can join this trip either for academic credit (3 credits undergraduate or graduate) or as a non-credit community participant. This is an extraordinary exploration of Tibet and Nepal. Students will be accompanied by a UOG professor whose expertise is in Asian culture, philosophy, and religion and efforts have been made to work with the best national and local guides for the group.

For more information, contact Dr. Kim Skoog at 735-2800/2811 or email socrates@guam.net. (UOG)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 7, 2004

The many faces of 'stateless' issue

The many human faces behind the "stateless" issue shone in the three separate public hearings hosted by the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations this week, with testimonies awash with emotion and sympathy for some 350 individuals affected by what historian Sam McPhetres called a "mistake" in the Covenant. Stateless individuals stood before the committee and moved the crowd with stories of their unfulfilled "American dream" owing to the situation that rendered them without U.S. citizenships. The public hearing held at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Saipan on Thursday drew the most number of attendees. Similar hearings were also conducted on Tinian on Wednesday and Rota on Friday.

902 option bared in resolving issue

House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial bared the "902 option" to resolving the "stateless" issue, a recommendation that he said was raised by Gov. Juan N. Babauta during a luncheon meeting between the two CNMI leaders on Thursday. "This is where a representative of the U.S. president gets together with our government representatives and they consider the stateless issue. The matter goes directly to the U.S. Congress if the U.S. president's representative and our representative agree. So that is another option that the governor and I discussed," Fitial informed attendees to Thursday's public hearing on House Bill 14-97. He further explained that the 902 option would be a consultation process between the United States and the CNMI under the Covenant arrangement.

Mar. 7, 2006

Saipan seaport posts nearly \$500K in revenue tonnage

The Saipan seaport has reported nearly \$500,000 in revenue tonnage in January and February this year. CPA acting board chair Antonio S. Camacho, who heads the board's seaport facilities committee, said 42 commercial vessels docked on Saipan during the period. Based on the records, inbound cargo totaled 41,866 tons, amounting to \$240,735; outbound cargo totaled 11,841, amounting to \$68,087. Total revenue tonnage-including P.O.L. throughput (\$155,631) and cement throughput (\$1,697)-reached \$466,151. Meantime, passengers fee collections from Jan. 14 to Feb. 17, 2006 at the port reached \$22,947. The government collected some \$12,000 from passengers in January and over \$10,944 in February.

House backs full payment of poker license

The House of Representatives passed yesterday a measure that would make full payment of fees a requirement for a poker license. The House members voted unanimously in favor of House Bill 15-18, which would require poker license fees to be paid in full prior to the issuance of a license. The proposed legislation also provides that those fees should be nonrefundable. According to the House Committee on Ways and Means, there are currently 1,414 poker machines throughout the Commonwealth. These machines should be providing a total of \$16.38 million to government coffers. Currently, the yearly fees are being paid on a quarterly basis.

Mar. 7, 2007

Pete A asks Congress for \$1M for CHC

Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio has asked the U.S. Congress for \$1 million for the repair of infrastructure at the Commonwealth's only hospital. Tenorio made this request in a written testimony he submitted to the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs last week. According to Tenorio, the Commonwealth Health Center needs \$1 million to replace its back-up generator and reverse osmosis water treatment equipment, and to upgrade the hospital interfaces. "The lives of the patients in the Commonwealth Health Center are dependent on stable power and clean water," he noted.

House OKs entry permit for traveling patients

The House of Representatives has passed legislation that would establish an entry permit specifically for traveling patients. House Bill 15-227, authored by Rep. Ray Yumul, proposes to regulate the entry of visitors who enter the Commonwealth for the purpose of medical treatment. If enacted, the measure would direct the Division of Immigration to promulgate regulations establish a medical entry permit. Minimum requirements for this permit would include proof of the patient's ability to pay for medical services and approval from the Secretary of Public Health to seek medical treatment.



SPELLING BEE WINNER

Fifth-grader Martin Pangilinan, right, is Grace Christian Academy's representative to the 41st Scripps Spelling Bee Regional Competition in Guam. Martin is the son of Everly and Lorena Pangilinan. Martin shared that being tested is what he likes most about preparing for the bee. "It is because I get to know if I need to improve," Pangilinan said, adding that the Latin words list is his favorite. He will compete on March 9, 2013, at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort. Pangilinan is joined here by the second-place winner, third-grader Miku Kimura.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Island Snapshots

RED CROSS MONTH

Kennedy Benjamin, right, American Red Cross NMI Chapter service delivery manager for health and safety, reads a portion of a letter from a CNMI service member stationed abroad who received a care package from the CNMI under the Operation Homefront Support program that Red Cross spearheads, while Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider and other Red Cross officials and volunteers look on during Friday's proclamation signing. Inos and Hofschneider jointly designated March 2013 American Red Cross Month.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CULTURAL CLUB

Members of the Kagman High School Refaluwasch Cultural Club have their picture taken after performing for the Fukuchiyama Syukutodu High School from Japan.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LAOLAO CAMPAIGN

Jihan Buniag, campaign manager from the Division of Environment Quality, presents to a few lawmakers in the office of Rep. Deleon Guerrero about the Laolao Campaign and Watershed Project on March 1, 2013.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

EARTH TEAM AWARDEE

Members of the Environmental and Natural Resources Organization listen to NRCS staff read the award on Friday. Below, Natural Resources Conservation Services' Kendal Hicks and Jay Doronila announce on March 1 that the Environmental and Natural Resources Organization has been presented with the 2013 National Earth Team Award for its exceptional voluntary activities that improve the quality of life on the islands.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

District Conservationist Kendal Hicks reads the plaque.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

NEW SENATOR

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), left, congratulates Sen. Joaquin H. Borja (R-Tinian), right, while Senate floor leader Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan), center, looks on during session on Tinian Tuesday wherein Borja took his oath of office. The governor appointed Borja to fill the vacancy left by former senator and not Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

JOB SEEKERS

Jobless U.S. eligible workers listen to Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho and Workforce Investment Agency director Edith Deleon Guerrero (both not in photo) during a meeting on Tuesday. The council is seeking the support of the local business community in helping the job seekers, partnering with WIA in addressing unemployment among U.S. workers in the Northern Marianas.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday to Cesz Evangelista, who is celebrating her special day today, March 7, 2013! We wish you all the best now and forever. More to come and God bless! Greetings come from your Joeten Ace Hardware family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 21st birthday to our daughter down in Guam, Monishia Marie Lizama Santos! Hope you're enjoying your birthday with your siblings. Wish we were there to celebrate with you another blessed year. May the Lord continue to guide you and protect you from harm's way and may He make all your dreams come true. We love you so much Nish! Greetings come from Mom, Dad, Kika, Sus, Shawn, and Ninja Boy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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By LEON ARON
Los Angeles Times*Leon Aron is resident scholar and director of Russian studies at the American Enterprise Institute. His most recent book is Roads to the Temple. Memory, Truth, Ideas and Ideals in the Making of the Russian Revolution, 1987-1991. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.*

A Russian 'frenemy'

The White House is trying to revive the "reset" with Vladimir Putin's Russia. It is likely to be a wasted effort. The reset is dead not because of someone's ill will or mistakes. It is because Washington and Moscow have reached the limit of accommodation that neither could overstep without compromising the central elements and moral content of their foreign and domestic policies. The Obama administration's effort would be far better spent on devising a more realistic strategy that at least stabilizes the relationship, albeit on a lower level of interaction.

Two sets of factors are mostly responsible for the growing disjunction between the United States and Russia: the diminution of Russia's geo-strategic relevance for some key U.S. objectives, and the increasing prominence and role that Kremlin domestic behavior plays in U.S.-Russian relations.

In Afghanistan, the rapid drawdown of U.S. troops obviates much of the need for personnel and materiel transportation through Russia after 2014. With regard to Iran, another key U.S. concern, Russia has unambiguously signaled the end of its support for even watered-down resolutions that it previously voted for at the U.N. Security Council.

Syria has been an even starker demonstration of the diversion in guiding values and objectives. Russia thrice vetoed U.S.-supported Security Council resolutions calling for sanctions against the murderous Assad regime. The last of the vetoes was cast in July, despite President Obama's appeal to President Putin in an hourlong telephone conversation. Throughout the conflict, Russia has continued to sell weapons and technology to Assad.

On Russia's domestic front, following Putin's reelection in March 2012, the Kremlin has undertaken a concerted and consistent effort to repress, intimidate, marginalize and stigmatize not just the political opposition but also citizens participating in peaceful protests and members of nonpolitical, independent civil movements and groups. Since the run-up to the Duma election in the second half of 2011, from Putin on down, the regime has been using alleged subversion by external enemies to justify the crackdown.

The heart of this campaign is anti-Americanism. "Moscow is entering a period when its domestic policies will have a greater impact on foreign policy than before," wrote Fyodor Lukyanov, one of Russia's preeminent independent foreign policy experts. "The anti-liberal spirit of domestic policy will almost inevitably dictate the necessity of counterpoising Russia to the U.S.A. as the symbol and foundation of the world liberal system."

After Putin accused Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton of inciting the opposition's demonstrations in 2011, the widely watched NTV national television channel aired a series of "documentaries." One of them purported to depict the U.S. support for the protest movement, complete with the distribution of free "cookies and cash" from the U.S. State Department to the protesters. Another of these so-called documentaries portrayed the then-new U.S. ambassador, Michael McFaul, as an agent dispatched by the U.S. government to foment a "color revolution."

The anti-American campaign's highest (or lowest) point was during Putin's traditional end-of-year press conference. The Russian

See RUSSIAN on Next Page



March's maelstrom

Our maelstrom arrives with a much-banded word that once had the legal meaning of "held for safekeeping" but has since evolved into all forms and shapes of political coloration and denigration, the word "sequestration."

The first day of this month, a reduction across the board to planned increases in federal spending took effect. This was to occur the first of the year as a consequence of the Budget Control Act of 2011, but postponed for two months by the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012. A reduction of \$85 billion annually goes through 2023.

One recalls the fiscal cliff debate for which the Relief Act was a temporary reprieve. The intent of reducing the budget by \$1.2 trillion (reduction plus interest) in a decade was a bipartisan effort in a Joint Select Committee on Debt Reduction. It failed to arrive at a consensus.

March maelstrom is now a roulette of finger pointing, with the President who signed the Budget Control Act getting most of the finger. For reminding folks of the implications of the sequestration, he is accused, on the one hand, as a failed leader, and on the other as promoting fear mongering, pointing out consequences to the lower end of the American economic spectrum.

Let us ignore the politics for a moment and focus on the consensus. There is an agreement that reducing the gap between expenditure and revenue is a prudent objective in any structure of governance, especially if expenses are higher than intake. (China's vaunted robust economy shows high indebtedness on low revenue but because the bookkeeping considers debts as assets, the health of its growth, by Wall Street measures, is heralded as good.) Since 1971, the Feds' expenditure has been higher than revenue collected, save five years during Bill Clinton's watch.

Another point of consensus is that the legislated cuts would be split evenly between the military and social amelioration. The figures during Georgie Bush's watch when expenditure rocketed while giving the rich tax relief on the assumption that funds on private hands would spur the economy, is very stark. The economy ballooned into high indebtedness.

The cost of the current proposal would be borne, if Obama prevails, by raising the taxes on the nation's wealthy so as not to unduly burden the lower income sector of the population, given the lopsided income distribution rate. The legislature is divided as powerful lobbies refuse to be reined in by higher taxes.

Two U.S. facts are evident: the reality of lengthening lifespan on an aging population and the high cost of health care. The nation's wealth tripled in the last three decades, most of it accruing to the upper 10 percent while the lower half barely had any to save. The figure on investments is stark: 1 percent of the population owns 50 percent, while the lower 50 percent owns not even 1 percent. In-

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune*Jaime R. Vergara is an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church and was pastor of Saipan Immanuel UMC at the second millenium's turn. He now writes from China.*

come distribution cannot be forced but the rewards can be structured so as not to unduly favor those who already have. (For a lively animation on "Wealth Inequality in America," check a six-minute YouTube by "Politizane.")

The five years when we collected more revenue than we spent was at a time when our soldiers were "building bridges more than constructing bombs," if I may be allowed a mother-endearing metaphor for the military. Federal spending hit the stratosphere when we opened up two military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Add the record of privatization in a mistaken attempt to let profit determine occupation policy and we understand the disaster that ensued.

With the cut on defense spending, there is evidence that retrenched military personnel are the preferred choice for police, penal, and corrections' staffing. In one state, members of the National Guard are preparing to take over correction's function. As Corps officers ascended to be captains of industries during Ike's watch, we will soon witness a proliferation of hand salutes in the halls of civilian government!

On the health front, Stephen Brill writes in *Why Medical Bills Are Killing Us*: (Google the whole article) "...Obamacare...changed the rules to who pays for what, but we haven't done much to change the prices we pay... When you follow the money, you see the choices we've made... Over the past few decades, we've enriched the labs, drug companies, medical device makers, hospital administrators and purveyors of CT scans, MRIs, canes and wheelchairs... of course, we've squeezed everyone outside the system who gets stuck with the bills."

It is clear that part of the high cost of health care in America is a result of an irrational charging scheme coded out of control; patients are compliant when they do not question the details of their bill since they do not feel its impact due to insurance coverage. Studies shows that the high cost of health care is the result of a uniform level of unreasonable charges that keep bills high and premiums even higher.

March maelstrom is more than just a tussle between the President and Congress on cutting the budget. It is also looking at the level of the cost of what we pay for, and that requires attention from all of us.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Chafleg Fiñkas Marianas

Mampos dañkulu pinedoñg rinikohen kontribusion tax na sakan, kase ennuu i \$114 miyon na biahe, menos ke ma'pos na sakan. Unna' suha \$72 miyon para sueddnon empleau. I teteñnan para otu siha nesessidat setbisiun publiku.

Ennuu i \$42 miyon sosobla para gaston hospitat, eskuela, man-malañgu ni numesessita attension mediku giya Filipinas yan Hawaii, programan man-ritirau yan otu siha man-dañkulu na obligasion.

Diberas, sumen makat i tafafana' ya tinaka' tiempu estake para u lafinu hinanau galaide'-ta gi halom man-loka' na lañgat yan chubasku. Inebli ga i nuebu na gobietnu para u ta'lon humusga fuetsan mas menos gi effektibu na manera. Fuetsau na debi u guaha seriosamente ma-utot gastu gi todut patte gi halom gobietnu.

Pot ihemplo: Kau magahet na ha nesessita i gobietnu 4,000 na empleau? Gi halom fuetsau na chinatsagan fiñkas kuantu siña ma-utot na gastu pot para u kubre presisu na setbisiun publiku? Debi umachogue seriosu na initut ti manpresisu siha na gastu. Ni unu gi man-apapase kontribusion tax mumirese fuetsau mana' mutta mas pot para uma-ulus i mantai bali siha na empleau gobietnu.

Tantu de ta fama 'sino chispas presisu na rinibaha gi gastun gobietnu siha, tatnai sinsiyu i mansañgan siha sa' mampos ta batte gi halom fache' politika. Pot ihemplo: Kau ta nesessita dos kuetpon guma' lehislatura? Hafa mas man-sustansiau na lai teteñnan ti man-machochogue?

Lau este i sinparat na dinage gi halom kabayerun politika tatnai magpu' ya umaya yan hita sige ha' ta fatañgaye i gueku siha na akonsehu 'nai siha mismu mahoñgge dinagen niha. De dios mihu na diskuidu este.

Minañggau Pulan

Sessu teñga uchan gotpe ni inakompapaña un' freskun mañglu' gi minañggau (dineku') pulan gi sanhaya. Sumen agardesiyun i poduñg uchan piot 'nai todut dia hit gi halom gualu' 'sino tasi 'nai titiñgteñg i semnag. Man-ñgaha hit sinsiyu na agradezimientu 'nai mana' fresku ginen mapagahes i oriyata.

Finatton gualafon esta i kuattu na doblada sumen nama'aggem. Repara ha' sa todut felis finaposmu, kontodu relasion-mu yan prohimu-mu. Maññge' i pueñge piot ya klaru ya siña un' lie' miyon pot miyon na pution gi lañget. Mas kineni' maña-mu guatu gi plaset pas. Kase guiya este na tiempu 'nai kulan manmasede hit ruminueba, pot para ta komprende, gi hilu' pinasensia haf' chinatsagata 'sino bendisionta.

Gai disbentaha lokue' i pueñgen gualafon. 'Nai sumahe gi sanlagu un' chatagmag, sige ham ni tanores antes mañaleg gi propiu chalan simenteyu halom. In' li'e dispues 'nos kuantos tautau man-minagagagon a'paka' gi papa' i kilu'us. In' hisgan ñaihon dispues man-adulalag kattan gi Gima Yuus. Dios tampare mansustun mame lau buente kulan inapagat na trabiha man-gagaige ha' i animas ya kulan mampos inipos man-burukentun i tropa.

Dispues sigeyu' mona kumu gaseteru umeyag offisiun litratita 'nai sige hu ke chule' kinahulu' gualafon kontra anineñg tronkun niyog yan gagu. Guaha hu danche ni sumen bonitu uttimofia na litratu siha. Deste este esta i tasyan gi kantun tanu' ni sinague' mañglu' hu litratu lokue'. Paire yan riku i fina' isla para maseha haye na litratista.

Adumidide' sige mas menos ridondun i pilan estake sumen dalalai. Mas este anog 'an chatagmag gi sanlagu na patten hilu' tasi. Lau agradeziyun i mattu ayu na bendision i muna' manana dididi' hinassota kada mes.

By **JOHN DELROSARIO**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



Ositan palabra

Mattu guihe na eskalera 'nai siña ta chatgen maisa gi mismu diskuiduta siha. Dispues, mauleg tafañachaleg sa' mampos guaguan i amot kahulu' haga' (hypertension).

Pot ihemplo: Ha faisen-yu' i asaguahu para bai'na tunog i kestat pugas ginen i kareta. Malefaa-yu ti hu chogue. Ha atan-yu ya ilegña, "Iku, ta'lu un' biahe ya bai' impeach hau sin ditension". Duru umachatge ham dispues hu labla tatte: "Chage ha' sa' diberas bai' resigna-yu' obligasion tatan guma'". Ai na gracia guihe na ha'ane.

Bes enkuando, malag i tenda-yu pot chupa 'nai ha ayu'us-yu i amiguhu Magoo: "Malago hau ma-impeach na oga'an?" Ensegidas hu labla na listu-yu' para bai' resigna-yu' kumu amigu. Ai na mañge' chaleg tuyan.

Tatnai in' repara na i sinaulag nana mas puti? Ai, buente pot ha tutuhon pumasalista papa' haf' ti un' chogue gi tinago'ña deste tres semana malofan. Ya ha lista todus mientras ha aliligau i kuatta. Ayu fahalañaña i espantun fino'ña siha (speech) antes de hu sague' lumatigasu hit ni kuatta. A' Saina! Putiña ke sinaulag tata.

Lau tatnai lokue' in' repara na i ninalagun nana neñkanu' i mas mañge'?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

‘Hamlet’ at CHC

The story "CHCC board urged to delay decision in Babauta's contract" (*Saipan Tribune*, March 5, 2013) is becoming more like *Hamlet* in Shakespeare's poetic drama. Too much love shown by the chairman, Joaquin Torres, is becoming a bad thing, and turning to be more of an exercise in futility than a demonstration of good leadership. The only real and valid question for the chief operating officer/chief financial officer is, "Did we make money?" I just don't understand why Mr. Torres would be interested in knowing the details of management operations at CHC. The expectation of the board on management officials' performance measure, particularly that of the COO/CFO, is "yes" we made money or "no" we did not make money. That is all that the board should be interested in. No one at CHC is placed in a leadership position to fail, and losing money is certainly a failure in business operations; the alternate thought could be one of minimizing loss. Which is another "politically correct" way of looking at things at CHC.

In the late 1989, I interned at the Financial Management De-

A better way of promoting NMI

I recently returned to Tokyo from a four-day visit to Saipan. While there I read that the hotel tax will be increased from 10 percent to 15 percent and that \$1.5 million of the additional funds raised will be used for tourist promotion. I would like to suggest a better use of these funds: Do something about all of the wild dogs running around Garapan and the island.

Doesn't the government of Saipan realize just how shocking it is for visitors from advanced countries to come to Saipan and be confronted with these poor animals everywhere? They are a pitiful and frightening sight and they greatly inhibit your visitors from enjoying their stay.

My wife and I were very put off by our encounters with these

partment of the Sharp Memorial Hospital in Mira Mesa, Calif., as part of the master's in health care administration degree program of the university I attended in the San Diego area. As an intern, I was involved in data mining of financial management information to address any financial management question raised by the CEO or other corporate officials in the chain of command. Some of the data mining requests were routine, and in some cases they were unusual ones and required extensive data collection, analysis, presentation, and explanation, depending on the complexity of the management information being sought. I learned that the reporting of operating revenues and operating expenses were considered a routine part of the business of the Financial Management Department.

This hands-on experience led me to the belief that tasking the COO/CFO of CHC to report on what is routine financial management information should be just that—routine—without waiting to be engaged by the board. I have difficulty imagining why the information is too hard to produce, and unless this high-level CHC management official is hiding something, there is every reason to suspect that the level of competency of this management official is not measuring up to the demands of her position's basic job content.

animals and we basically stayed off of the streets at night, not knowing what these packs of stray dogs might do. Our other friends from Japan and the U.S. mainland who have visited Saipan tell us the same thing. I'm sure that Europeans feel the same way.

Tour companies and travel agencies are very smart and if they see that the authorities on Saipan are serious about eliminating this problem, they will put together more tours, tell their customers that Saipan is improving, and promote Saipan for you for free.

Hal Offutt

Tokyo, Japan

Francisco R. Agulto

Kannat Tabla, Saipan

Congratulation!

Congratulation to Gov. Inos and Lt. Gov. Hofschneider! Also, congratulations to Sen. Jack Borja, our newest member on the Senate.

We are very happy to congratulate you all. And we will be proud if, during your short term in office, you will be better leaders of the CNMI.

First of all, the most important part of being a leader is listening. The second part is carefully reviewing the issues and plans on how to help our present situation.

There is a saying that a leader who lets everyone contribute is a true leader. My first suggestion is that on your next meeting with all leaders is to add this to your agenda. Call all department heads or secretaries to submit their annual plan of work, which must contain details and description of what the project is for and how it would help the CNMI economy. What part of branch is it supporting and why is it important that we keep them. Also the most important, how much is this going to cost our government. Lastly, who are the workers? What is their qualification and background or what skills do they have that support this project. (Your goal should be to generate more revenue and cut cost.) With all this in your possession, should anyone question your leadership I'm sure you are truly ready to answer.

Again, congratulation! May God be with you always to lead us in working together and building a better CNMI.

Winnie Atalig

San Jose Village, Tinian

RUSSIAN

From Page 11

president, who had boycotted the G-8 summit at Camp David last May, portrayed the United States as a country that has "legalized torture" and that "does not react" to the "crimes committed against the adopted Russian children," even when these children are "beaten to death."

The increased bearing of Russia's domestic behavior on bilateral relations is epitomized by the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act, passed by Congress in December. The law, which bars Russian officials implicated in human rights abuses and corruption from entering the United States and freezes their U.S. assets, is named for a Russian lawyer and whistle-blower who died in custody in Moscow in 2009. It became yet another major irritant in the bilateral relations. A month later, the U.S. pulled out of the bilat-

eral working group on civil society within the "Obama-Medvedev" commission.

In this context, another strategic arms reduction, although consistent with Obama's ideological commitment to what he called "the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons," might prove too weak a reed to bear the entire weight of even a truncated reset. The price the Kremlin is almost certain to extract for signing off on the New START arms deal may well be incompatible with other U.S. objectives, such as missile defense and promotion of democracy.

There is, however, an alternative to unrealistic expectations. Let's call this option a strategic pause. Such entr'actes could provide the opportunity to define (or redefine) priorities in the relationship and the price each is prepared to pay for achieving these goals.

A pause does not mean no action. With respect to the most pressing and most divisive issues, the lines of communication with Moscow should be kept open. We need to protect existing equity—that is, the






areas where interests still coincide: continuing cooperation on nuclear nonproliferation, anti-terrorism, the support in the supply of the residual U.S. military presence in Afghanistan and policy coordination in thwarting the threat of militant Islamic fundamentalism in Central Asia.

Most important, such a pause should not be seen as an excuse for disengaging from Russia's burgeoning civil society, which appears to be increasingly able and willing to take on power at every level. The challenge for the U.S. is to find the middle ground between hubris—thinking we can shape and guide Russia's domestic evolution—and resignation—thinking we can't do anything "from the outside." From the presidential bully pulpit down to the bowels of the State Department, the message should be loud and clear: A free, democratic, stable and prosperous Russian state, at peace with its own people and the world, would be an immense geo-strategic boon to the United States, and America would be deeply gratified to welcome it as a friend and ally.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 80

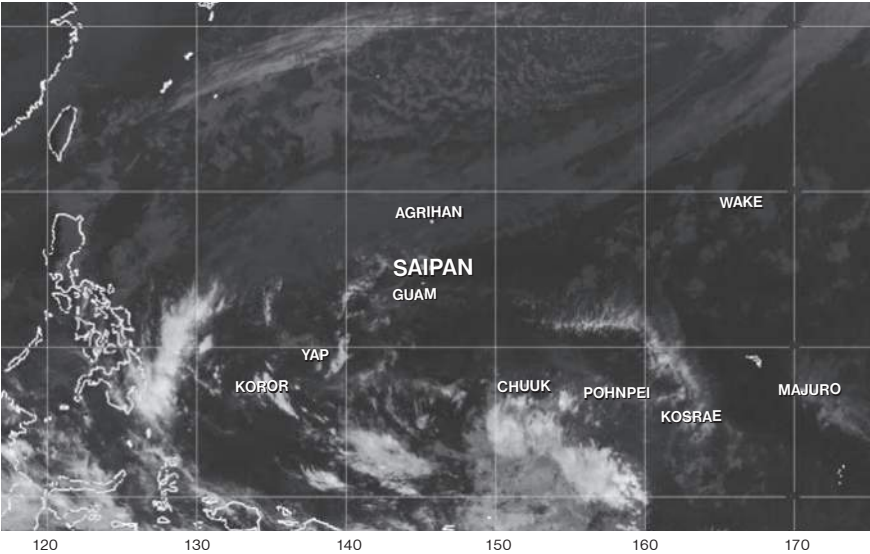
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 75 ▼ 66
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 66 ▼ 36
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 65
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 70
London	Cloudy	▲ 51 ▼ 45
Los Angeles	Showers	▲ 60 ▼ 48
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 89 ▼ 67
Miami	Sunny	▲ 73 ▼ 53
New York	Ice	▲ 39 ▼ 34
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲ 66 ▼ 51
Paris	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 46
Pusan	Windy	▲ 64 ▼ 47
Rome	Showers	▲ 59 ▼ 51
Salem	Showers	▲ 51 ▼ 31
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 52 ▼ 45
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 57 ▼ 39
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 46
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 47 ▼ 34

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
4:52 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
9:55 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
3:01 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:35 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from north of Wake Island at 25N168E to 20N158E then continues as a shear line across the CNMI at 15N145E to 12N132E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are seen along and up to 350 miles northwest of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 3N130E to south of Pohnpei at EQ157E. A surface trough stretches north of the equatorial trough from 2N138E to 10N136E. Convergence associated with these two troughs is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Koror within 60 miles of a line from 8N134E to 5N137E and within 50 miles of a line from 2N137E to 1N140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are also present southeast of Yap within 100 miles of a line from 4N140E to 1N146E. A weak surface trough extends northwestward from 1N160E to 7N154E. Convergence ahead of this trough is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Chuuk and Pohnpei within 125 miles of a line from 5N150E to EQ159E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:30 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:30 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM
Monday	6:28 AM	6:27 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:21 AM	2:05 PM
Friday	3:15 AM	3:05 PM
Saturday	4:06 AM	4:03 PM
Sunday	4:53 AM	4:59 PM
Monday	5:38 AM	5:54 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEB. 5, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5 UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:20pm Daily	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5062 3:35am 4:10am 1, 3, 5 UA5038 10:55am 11:30am 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 4, 6, 7 DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 4, 6, 7 OZ608 3:30am 6:40am 3	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 5, 6 OZ607 9:35pm 2:25am+1 2
SAIPAN-SEUL (ICN) OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:00am 8:35am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:30pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU7108 3:50am 7:40am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU7107 7:40pm 2:50am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO) XF1734 11:55am 5:10pm 5	VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN XF1733 8:00pm 12:05am+1 4
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 UA5070/191 4:35am 10:00am 6 via GUM UA5070/191 4:40am 10:00am 3 DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:30pm 2, 5 via GUM UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5072/PR111 9:45pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 8:05am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/UA5072 10:15pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 10:55pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 7:55am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5076/147 3:10pm 10:30pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:25pm 10:40am+1 1 via GUM UA180/5077 11:25pm 6:25pm+1 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Dow hits record, erasing Great Recession losses

NEW YORK (AP)—The stock market is back.

Five and a half years after the start of a frightening drop that erased \$11 trillion from stock portfolios and made investors despair of ever getting their money back, the Dow Jones industrial average has regained all the losses suffered during the Great Recession and reached a new high. The blue-chip index rose 125.95 points Tuesday and closed at 14,253.77, topping the previous record of 14,164.53 on Oct. 9, 2007, by 89.24 points.

"It signals that things are getting back to normal," says Nicolas Colas, chief market strategist at ConvergeX Group, a brokerage. "Unemployment is too high, economic growth too sluggish, but stocks are anticipating improvement."

The new record suggests that investors who did not panic and sell their stocks in the 2008-2009 financial crisis have fully recovered. Those who have reinvested dividends or added to their holdings have done even better. Since bottoming at 6,547.05 on March 9, 2009, the Dow has risen 7,706.72 points or 118 percent.

The Dow record does not include the impact of inflation. Adjusted for that, the Dow would have to reach 15,502 to match its old record, according to JPMorgan Chase.

The Standard and Poor's 500, a broader index, closed at 1,539.79, 25.36 points from its record.

The last time the Dow hit a record, George W. Bush still had another year as president, Apple had just sold its first iPhone, and Lehman Brothers was still in business.

But unemployment was also 4.7 percent versus 7.9 percent today, a reminder that stock gains have proved no elixir for the economy.

Still, the Dow high is another sign that the nation is slowly healing after the worst recession since the 1930s. It comes as car sales are at a five-year high, home prices are rising, and U.S. companies continue to report big profits.

The stock gains have helped retirement and brokerage ac-

counts held by many Americans recover. That, in turn, has helped push U.S. household wealth nearly back to its peak before the recession, though many in the middle class are still deep in the hole. Most middle-class wealth is tied up in home values, which are still a third below their peak.

Good economic news Tuesday helped lift stocks. Retail sales in the 17 European countries that use the euro rose faster than expected, China's government said it would support ambitious growth targets, and a report showed U.S. service companies grew last month at their fastest pace in a year.

"It feels great," says Marty Leclerc, chief investment offi-

cial at Barrack Yard Advisors, an investment firm. In early 2009, when stocks were plummeting, "it looked like Armageddon was nigh. It's a lot more fun to be in a rising market."

In the depths of the recession four years ago, few investors would have predicted such a fast recovery. Some feared another Great Depression. Banks were collapsing, lending was frozen, world trade was plunging, and stocks were in free fall. "People thought we were going to relive the 1930s," says Robert Buckland, chief global stock strategist at Citigroup. He calls the stock gains since "pretty remarkable."

From its peak in October 2007 to its bottom in March 2009, the Dow fell 54 percent. That was far less than the nearly 90 percent drop in the Great Depression but scary nonetheless. There had been 11 previous bear markets since World War II and none had reached 50 percent.

One man who stayed calm and didn't sell was Jay Sachs, 70, a retired computer consultant. In fact, as others scrambled to exit stocks in late 2008, he plunged in more—scooping up

drug maker Ely Lilly and Co., health-care products giant Johnson & Johnson and food company General Mills.

"You have to be greedy when others are fearful," he says, quoting a famous line from billionaire Warren Buffett, who also bought in the panic. Sachs adds, "People are still fearful and that's a good sign. There's room for growth."

He says his portfolio has doubled in value in four years.

As stock rebounds go, this has been an unusually quiet and uncelebrated one. Typically, bull markets are accompanied by rising trading volume, a surge in young companies going public and Internet chatter over hot stocks.

The past four years, none of that has happened.

Adding to the chastened mood is lingering fear among many investors that stock gains can disappear in a flash. Burned by two stock-market crashes in less than a decade, Americans have

sold more U.S. stocks than they've bought the past four years, nearly unprecedented in a bull market since World War II.

In this run-up, nearly all the buying has come from companies repurchasing their own stock in an effort to boost its value. Companies in the S&P 500 have bought \$1.5 trillion since the Great Recession began in December 2007.

Dow records are dismissed by some investors as unimportant because the index comprises just 30 stocks. Many professional investors prefer to follow the S&P 500, which, as the name implies, tracks 500 companies. But the Dow has closely followed the ups and downs of its broader rival over the years, and is a good proxy for how big companies are doing.

The S&P 500 is up 128 percent from its March 9, 2009 low, about the same as the Dow.

The Dow record is a victory of sorts for Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke. Under his aegis, the Fed launched an unprecedented campaign to lift stocks by making their chief rival for investor money—bonds—less attractive.

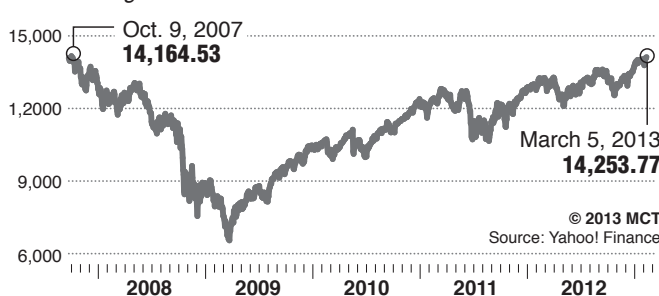
including United's hub in Chicago. For a complete list of affected airports, see the "Important notices" page of united.com.

Customers ticketed on flights to, from or through airports in the path of the storm may reschedule their itineraries in advance of the storm with a one-

time date or time change, and the airline will waive the change fees. Find complete details, eligible travel dates and updates at united.com. Customers may also check flight status, change travel plans quickly and create new travel plans conveniently via united.com. **(United)**

Setting a record

The benchmark Dow Jones industrial average has broken its record high set in October 2007.



Nation

TSA to allow small knives, bats, clubs on planes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Airline passengers will be able to carry small knives, souvenir baseball bats, golf clubs and other sports equipment onto planes beginning next month under a policy change announced Tuesday by the head of the Transportation Security Administration.

The new policy conforms U.S. security standards to international standards, and allows TSA to concentrate its energies on more serious safety threats, the agency said in a statement.

The announcement, made by TSA Administrator John Pistole at an airline industry gathering in New York, drew an immediate outcry from unions representing flight attendants and other airline workers, who said the items are still dangerous in the hands of the wrong passengers.

Transport Workers Union Local 556, which represents over 10,000 flight attendants at Southwest Airlines, called the new policy "dangerous" and "shortsighted," saying it was designed to make "the lives of TSA staff easier, but not make flights safer."

"While we agree that a passenger wielding a small knife or swinging a golf club or hockey stick poses less of a threat to the pilot locked in the cockpit, these are real threats to passengers and flight attendants in the passenger cabin," the union said in a statement.

The policy change was based on a recommendation from an internal TSA working group, which decided the items represented no real danger, said David Castelveter, a spokesman for the agency.

Chavez death: Venezuelans in US hopeful of change

DORAL, Fla. (AP)—Cheering Venezuelans in the U.S. waved their country's flag and voiced hope that change would come to their homeland after the death Tuesday of long-ruling populist President Hugo Chavez.

"He's gone!" dozens in a largely anti-Chavez community chanted after word spread swiftly of the death of the 58-year-old leftist. Many said they were rejoicing after nearly a decade and a half of socialist rule, heavily concentrated in Chavez's hands.

"We are not celebrating death," Ana San Jorge, 37, said amid a jubilant crowd in the Miami suburb of Doral. "We are celebrating the opening of a new door, of hope and change."

Wearing caps and T-shirts in Venezuela's colors of yellow, blue and red, many expressed cautious optimism and concern after the announcement of the death.

The presence on flights of gun-carrying pilots traveling as passengers, federal air marshals and airline crew members trained in self-defense provide additional layers of security to protect against misuse of the items, he said. However, not all flights have federal air marshals or armed pilots onboard.

The new policy permits folding knives with blades that are 2.36 inches or less in length and are less than 1/2-inch wide. The policy is aimed at allowing passengers to carry pen knives, corkscrews with small blades and other knives.

Passengers also will be allowed to bring onboard as part of their carry-on luggage novelty-sized baseball bats less than 24 inches long, toy plastic bats, billiard cues, ski poles, hockey sticks, lacrosse sticks and two golf clubs, the agency said. The policy goes into effect on April 25.

Security standards adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organization, a U.N. agency, already call for passengers to be able to carry those items. Those standards are non-binding, but many countries follow them.

Box cutters, razor blades and knives that don't fold or that have molded grip handles will still be prohibited, the TSA said.

Reaction to the changes was mostly positive among travelers interviewed Tuesday at Los Angeles International Airport.

"I figure small knives are appropriate and fine," said Becca Wong of Los Angeles. "People carry pocket knives on them daily on the street so I'm just as at risk there versus on an airplane. So I'm not really too

concerned about it."

"Just a little small pocket-knife that most people have isn't going to do a whole lot of damage to anybody," agreed Matt Shaw of Los Angeles. "I don't think it's that big a deal."

"I carry a pocket knife as well," said Tunde Akinyele of Los Angeles. "But I know when I travel I leave it at home. They were taking those small knives that you use to clean your fingernails—those, no. But a pocket knife, I would say, yes, that is a weapon. It can be used to harm somebody on the flight. So I would say still we shouldn't allow that yet."

The policy change got a thumbs up from Dean Rhymer, a Junior Los Angeles Kings hockey player who strode into the terminal carrying a hockey stick. "I think it'll be helpful. It's easier to carry it on to bring it places."

The items that will be permitted under the new policy don't present any greater danger than other everyday items that passengers can turn into weapons, aviation security consultant John L. Sullivan said. A pen or a toothbrush can be sharpened into a knife like the "shivs" inmates sometimes make in prisons, he said. Some airlines have returned to using real glassware and silverware in first class, rather than plastic or paper, he noted. Glasses can be broken and used as weapons, he added.

"There are a lot of things you can use on an airplane if you are intent on hurting someone," said Sullivan, co-founder of the Welsh-Sullivan Group in Dallas. "Security is never 100 percent."

But some were anxious, too. "Although we might all be united here celebrating today, we don't know what the future holds," said Francisco Gamez, 18, at El Arepazo, a popular Venezuelan restaurant in Doral.

In Caracas, Venezuela's foreign minister announced late Tuesday that Vice President Nicolas Maduro would be interim president and run as the governing party candidate in elections to be called within 30 days. It wasn't immediately clear when presidential elections would be held.

Chavez, though cancer-stricken in recent years, had led the oil-rich Latin American nation for years by espousing a fiery brand of socialism. All the while he bickered with a succession of U.S. governments over what he called Washington's hegemony in the region.

Many in Florida's large Venezuelan community and simi-

United offers options to customers affected by winter storms

United Airlines today announced travel options for customers whose flight plans may be disrupted by winter storms impacting the Northern Plains and Midwest regions. Weather conditions will lead to the delay or cancellation of certain flights into and out of several airports,



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Asia

Armed Filipinos elusive after Malaysian assault

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian security forces scouring rugged terrain in Borneo on Wednesday briefly battled armed Filipino intruders who were on the run after being bombarded with airstrikes and mortar fire, police said. One Filipino was shot and believed killed.

The capture of nearly 200 members of a Philippine Muslim clan would ease public nervousness in Malaysia's resource-rich eastern state of Sabah, which has been shaken in the past week by the killing of eight police officers and 19 Filipino gunmen who slipped into neighboring Malaysia.

Malaysian soldiers and police on Tuesday attacked the area that the Filipinos have occupied for three weeks in an extraordinary siege intended to highlight their territorial claim to the entire state of Sabah, which the Filipinos insist is their ancestral birthright.

More than 24 hours after the assault codenamed "Operation Sovereign" was launched, Malaysia's national police chief Ismail Omar said the main

encounter was an exchange of gunfire in the hilly coastal district that's thick with foliage slightly after dawn on Wednesday.

Malaysian forces shot and possibly killed one of the clansmen, who appear to be trying to escape the area, Ismail said.

"We're in a good position. We ask the public not to panic," Ismail said, adding that authorities would expand their search area beyond the current 4 square kilometers (1.5 square miles).

Relatives of the Filipino group's leader in Manila said he had informed them by telephone that he and his followers remain unhurt.

"Bombs were dropped, but they are still safe," said Jacel Kiram, daughter of Sultan Jamalul Kiram III of the southern Philippine province of Sulu.

Commenting on Malaysian Foreign Minister Anifah Aman's announcement this week that the group was being formally considered terrorists, Kiram said, "Malaysia wants us dead, and all we want is to talk." The group in Malaysia is led by a brother of the sultan.

Malaysia had repeatedly urged the Filipinos to leave peacefully after they slipped past naval patrols last month and scared away villagers in an obscure part of Sabah's eastern seaboard.

The Filipinos refused to leave, insisting that Sabah, a state rich with timber and oil, had once belonged to their royal sultanate for more than a century and should be handed back.

Fighter jets and group forces attacked the area after the Filipinos fatally shot two Malaysia policemen last week. Six other police officers were ambushed and killed by other Filipino assailants believed to be linked to the clansmen at a waterfront village in another Sabah district on Saturday.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario met his Malaysian counterpart this week and "pursued the possibility of allowing for an unconditional surrender of the group to avert further loss of lives and allow them to return to their respective homes and families," according to the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday.

NKorea vows to cancel '53 Korean War cease-fire

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's military is vowing to cancel the 1953 cease-fire that ended the Korean War, straining already frayed ties between Washington and Pyongyang as the United Nations moves to impose punishing sanctions over the North's recent nuclear test.

Without elaborating, the Korean People's Army Supreme Command boasted of having "lighter and smaller nukes" and warned late Tuesday of "surgical strikes" meant to unify the divided Korean Peninsula.

The statement cited ongoing U.S.-South Korean joint military drills that Pyongyang propaganda considers invasion preparation, and a U.S.-led push to secure a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for sanctions in response to North

Korea's Feb. 12 nuclear test. A U.S.-China draft resolution is expected to be circulated at the U.N. this week.

Heated military rhetoric is common from North Korea when tensions rise on the Korean Peninsula and during U.S.-South Korean war drills, and Pyongyang has previously threatened to tear up the cease-fire. But this latest statement is unusually specific in its details and is seen as noteworthy by officials in Seoul because a senior North Korean military official issued the threats on state TV.

The North's statement threatens to block a communications line between North Korea and the United States at the border village separating the two Koreas, and to nullify the 60-year-old Korean War armistice agree-

ment on March 11, when two weeks of U.S.-South Korean military drills will draw 10,000 South Korean and 3,500 U.S. forces. Another round of drills between the allies began earlier this month.

Pyongyang's recent nuclear test and rocket launches, and the subsequent call for U.N. punishment, have increased already high animosity between the North and Washington and Seoul.

The United States and others worry that North Korea's third nuclear test takes it a big step closer toward its goal of having nuclear-armed missiles that can reach America, and condemn its nuclear and missile efforts as threats to regional security and a drain on the resources that could go to North Korea's largely destitute people.

ASIAN BRIEFS

NATO chief backs larger Afghan force through 2018

LASHKAR GAH, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan's president got reassurance Tuesday that NATO intends to backstop his troubled nation's security long beyond 2014, after NATO's chief endorsed keeping Afghanistan's security forces at the current strength for years to come. NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen told The Associated Press that keeping the Afghan force larger for longer is more cost effective, and it would be more acceptable

to Afghans than foreign soldiers. He spoke after meeting with Afghan President Hamid Karzai in Kabul on Monday. "From the political point of view, it is better to give the defense ... an Afghan face, and from an economic point of view, it's less expensive to finance Afghan security forces than to send foreign troops," he said Tuesday as he toured a NATO base in Helmand province.

Maldives ex-leader arrested in abuse of power case

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

(AP)—The former president of the Maldives was arrested Tuesday on charges of abuse of power during his tenure, setting off violent protests in the capital which saw seven policemen hurt. Police spokesman Hassan Hanif said Mohamed Nasheed was arrested at his home in Male, the capital, and will be produced in court on Wednesday. He said Nasheed failed to appear for a hearing and evaded two arrest warrants. He said Nasheed's supporters turned violent soon after the arrest, attacking police and burning a motorbike.

World

Venezuelans pour into streets to mourn Hugo Chavez

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Hundreds of anguished Venezuelans poured into the streets of downtown Caracas crying, hugging each other and shouting slogans in support of President Hugo Chavez after learning of his death Tuesday.

Clusters of women with tears streaming down their faces clung to each other and wept near the Miraflores presidential palace. Some wore T-shirts with slogans that read "Go forward commander!"

Nearby, men with grim and

somber faces pumped their arms in the air while shouting "Long live Chavez! Long live Chavismo!"

■■■
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Vice President Nicolas Maduro is taking over leadership of Hugo Chavez's political movement after the socialist leader died Tuesday at age 58 following a nearly two-year bout with cancer. Maduro now faces the daunting task of rallying support in a deeply divided country while maintaining unity

within his party's ranks.

Maduro decidedly lacks the vibrant personality that made Chavez a one-man political phenomenon in Venezuela, but he has the advantage of being Chavez's hand-picked successor.

The mustachioed 50-year-old former bus driver won Chavez's trust as a loyal spokesman who echoed the president's stances. How Maduro will lead in Chavez's absence remains to be seen, although he's widely known as both a skilled negotiator and a leader who views upholding his mentor's legacy as his personal crusade and responsibility.

■■■
People also gathered outside the military hospital where Chavez died. Soldiers in riot gear stood shoulder to shoulder guarding the complex.

"I feel such big pain I can't even speak," said Yamilina Barrios, a 39-year-old office worker weeping at a street corner. "He was the best thing the country had ... I adore him. Let's hope the country calms down and we can continue the tasks he left us."



Supporters of Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez react as they learn that Chavez has died through an announcement by the vice president in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, March 5, 2013.

Chavez's cancer fight: a glance at cancer struggle

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has undergone surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation treatment since June 2011 for an undisclosed type of pelvic cancer. Key moments in his medical treatment have included:

■ June 30, 2011: Chavez says on television from Cuba that he had a cancerous tumor removed from his pelvic region. He later says the tumor extracted was the size of a baseball.

■ July 4, 2011: Chavez returns to Venezuela, but later travels to Cuba periodically for chemotherapy and medical tests.

■ Sept. 23, 2011: Chavez says he completed chemotherapy and calls the treatment successful. Says later that tests show no reappearance of cancer cells.

■ Feb. 21, 2012: Chavez says his doctors found a new lesion in the same place where the tumor was previously removed, and announces plans to return to Cuba for surgery.

■ Feb. 26, 2012: Chavez undergoes operation that removes the tumor from the same location in his pelvic region. Says later that follow-up tests showed the tumor was "recurrence of the initially diagnosed cancer."

■ March 24, 2012: Chavez

travels to Cuba to begin radiation therapy.

■ April 14, 2012: Chavez travels to Cuba for second round of radiation treatment.

■ April 26, 2012: Chavez returns to Venezuela following cancer treatment in Cuba, saying his latest round of therapy was successful.

■ July 9, 2012: Chavez says at a news conference that tests show he is "totally free" of cancer.

■ Oct. 7, 2012: Chavez wins re-election to another six-year term, beating challenger Henrique Capriles.

■ Nov. 27, 2012: Chavez says he will travel to Cuba for more medical treatment. He says doctors have recommended he "begin special treatment consisting of various sessions of hyperbaric oxygenation."

■ Dec. 9, 2012: Chavez announces that a cancerous tumor reappeared and that he must travel to Cuba for another operation. He says the surgery could be complicated and that if he is unable to stay on as president, Vice President Nicolas Maduro should run in an election to take his place.

■ Dec. 10, 2012: Chavez travels to Cuba and undergoes surgery the next day.

■ Jan. 10, 2013: Chavez misses his scheduled swearing-in ceremony, which was

indefinitely postponed by lawmakers. Supporters stage symbolic inauguration in the streets of Caracas, swearing themselves in in their leader's place.

■ Feb. 13, 2013: Maduro says Chavez is undergoing "extremely complex and tough" treatments.

■ Feb. 15, 2013: Government shows first photos of Chavez in more than two months, says he is breathing through a tracheal tube.

■ Feb. 18, 2013: Chavez returns from Cuba, tweets, "We will live and we will triumph!" Supporters celebrate in streets. But Chavez heads immediately to a military hospital, making no public personal appearance.

■ Feb. 22, 2013: Foreign Minister Elias Jaua reads long letter from Chavez to summit of African and South American leaders.

■ March 1, 2013: Maduro says Chavez is receiving chemotherapy and "continues his battle for life." He describes the treatments as "intense and tough."

■ March 4, 2013: Communications Minister Ernesto Villegas says Chavez has "a new and severe infection" and is in a "very delicate" condition.

■ March 5, 2013: The government announces that Chavez has died.

Focus

Venezuela's Chavez dies, officials call for unity

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Some in anguish, some in fear, Venezuelans raced for home and stocked up on food and water Tuesday after the government announced the death of President Hugo Chavez, the larger-than-life firebrand socialist who led the nation for 14 years.

Vice President Nicolas Maduro's voice broke and tears ran down his face as he appeared on national television to announce that Chavez died at 4:25 p.m. local time (3:55 p.m. EST, 1755 GMT) "after battling hard against an illness over nearly two years."

He did not say what exactly killed Chavez, although the government had announced the previous night that a severe new respiratory infection had severely weakened him.

A few hours later, Foreign Minister Elias Jaua affirmed one of Chavez's final wishes: Maduro would be interim president and then be the ruling party's candidate to carry on Chavez's populist "revolution" in elections to be called within 30 days.

It was a day fraught with mixed signals, some foreboding and some violent. Just a few hours before announcing Chavez's death, Maduro made a virulent speech against enemies he claimed were trying to undermine Venezuelan democracy.

And he said two U.S. military attaches had been expelled for trying to destabilize the nation.

In announcing the death of the former army paratrooper who wielded Venezuela's oil wealth to benefit the poor and win friends regionally, Maduro shifted tone.

He called on Venezuelans to be "dignified heirs of the giant man" Chavez was.

"Let there be no weakness, no violence. Let there be no hate. In our hearts there should only be one sentiment: Love. Love, peace and discipline."

The government declared 7 days of mourning and closed all schools and universities until next Monday.

All across downtown Caracas, shops and restaurants began to close and Venezuelans hustled for home, some even breaking into a run.

Many people looked incredulous or anguished.

"I feel a sorrow so big I can't speak," said Yamilina Barrios, a 39-year-old clerk who works in the Industry Ministry, her face covered in tears. "He was the best this country had."

"I hope the country calms down and continues the work that he left us, continues in unity and the progress continues," Barrios said.

Among the nervous was Maria Elena Lovera, a 45-year-old housewife. "I want to go home. People are crazy and are way too upset."

There were several incidents of political violence.

In one, a group of masked, helmeted men on motorcycles, some brandishing revolvers, attacked about 40 students who had been protesting for more than a week near the Supreme Court building to demand the government give more information about Chavez's health.

The attackers, who didn't wear cloth-

Venezuela's Hugo Chavez

President Hugo Chavez, one of Latin America's most charismatic and controversial figures ruled Venezuela for 14 years. He used the country's oil wealth to underwrite programs for the poor and to gain influence abroad. A look at his life and career as a world leader:

Chavez campaigns in rainstorm, October 2012



1954 Born in Sabaneta, Barinas state, to school teachers

1975 Graduates from military academy, where he is a star student

1989 Forms secret Bolivarian movement with other cadets to reform nation

1991 Put in charge of paratrooper battalion; holds rank of commander

1992 Attempts presidential coup; surrenders on national TV; uses jail time to build political support

1994 After pardon, goes to Cuba; Fidel Castro becomes a mentor

1998 Wins run for president on platform to rewrite constitution

2000 Reelected to six-year term under new constitution; opposition grows to his socialist reforms

Chavez meets with Ahmadinejad in Venezuela, 2007

2002 Military leaders attempt coup, but Chavez returns after two days; says U.S. was behind coup

2004 Wins recall referendum; begins seizing land to plant food; wins reelection in 2006; nationalizes key industries

2006 At the U.N., Chavez says President George W. Bush is "the devil" who thinks he is "the owner of the world" and says the room smells of sulfur

2007 Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad visits; Chavez says this represents his opposition to U.S. foreign policy

2009 Wins referendum that lifts term limits on elected officials

2011 Reveals he has cancer; travels to Cuba repeatedly for treatment

Chavez' efforts to weaken U.S. power in the hemisphere

2001 Forms ALBA, alliance with other left-leaning Latin American nations

2004 Venezuela is founding member of Union of South American Nations

2011 Hosts hemisphere's leaders to form Community of Latin American and Caribbean States; U.S., Canada are only nations not to join



2012 Wins reelection but is hospitalized in Cuba; can't be sworn in; returns home February 2013; dies on March 5

Chavez in March 2011

Source: Miami Herald, BBC, MCT Photo Service, AP, The New York Times

Graphic: Judy Treible, Robert Dorrell



ing identifying any political allegiance, burned the students' tents and scattered their food just minutes after the death was announced.

"They burned everything we had," said student leader Gaby Arellano. She said she saw four of the attackers with pistols but none fired a shot.

Outside the military hospital where Chavez's remains were visited by loved ones and confederates, an angry crowd attacked a Colombian TV reporter.

"They beat us with helmets, with sticks, men, women, adults," Carmen Andrea Rengifo said on RCN TV. Video images showed her bleeding above the forehead but she was not seriously injured.

Maduro and other government officials have recently railed against international media for allegedly reporting rumors about Chavez's health, though RCN was not among those stations criticized.

After nightfall, several hundred people gathered at Bolivar Square, a symbolic place for Chavistas because it has a huge nine-meter-tall (30-foot-tall) statue of Simon Bolivar, the 19th century independence hero who Chavez claimed as his inspiration.

Some arrived singing Venezuela's national anthem and holding up posters of Chavez. Many chanted "I am Chavez," which had been a campaign slogan of the president.

One man began shouting through a megaphone a warning to the opposition: "They won't return." The crowd

then joined in, chanting: "They won't return."

Maduro, who had urged people to meet at the square, called on the opposition to respect "the people's pain."

"Those who never supported the comandante Hugo Chavez, respect the pain of the people. This is the moment to think of our families, of our country."

Chavez leaves behind a political movement firmly in control of the nation, but with some doubt about how a new leadership will be formed.

Chavez's illness prevented him from taking the oath of office after he was re-elected to a new term on Oct. 7 and the constitution says the speaker of the National Assembly, Diosdado Cabello, should take over as interim president under such circumstances.

But Jaua said Maduro would assume the rule as that was Chavez's will.

The man Chavez defeated in October, the youthful Miranda state Gov. Henrique Capriles, is widely expected to represent the opposition.

Venezuela's defense minister appeared on television to announce that the military will remain loyal to the constitution in the wake of Chavez's death.

Adm. Diego Molero appealed for "unity, tranquility and understanding" among Venezuelans.

The announcement of Chavez's death stunned Venezuelans, if it did not surprise them.

Earlier in the day, Maduro was more belligerent in tone as he announced the government had expelled two U.S.

diplomats from the country and said "we have no doubt" that Chavez's cancer, which was first diagnosed in June 2011, was induced by "the historical enemies of our homeland."

He compared the situation to the death of the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, claiming Arafat was "inoculated with an illness."

Chavez's inner circle has long claimed the United States was behind a failed 2002 attempt to overthrow him, and he has frequently played the anti-American card to stir up support. Venezuela has been without a U.S. ambassador since July 2010 and expelled another U.S. military officer in 2006.

U.S. State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell rejected the assertion that the U.S. was trying to destabilize Venezuela and said it "leads us to conclude that, unfortunately, the current Venezuelan government is not interested in and improved relationship."

Maduro has been taking on a larger role since Chavez urged Venezuelans to choose him as president before disappearing in early December to undergo a fourth round of cancer surgery in Cuba.

He accused U.S. Embassy Air Force attache Col. David Delmonaco of spying on Venezuela's military and seeking to involve officers in "destabilizing projects." Maduro gave Delmonaco 24 hours to leave, and U.S. officials said he had already left the country.

Maduro said Tuesday that the government was "on the trail of other el-

ements that figure in this entire venomous scenario and are seeking to stir up trouble."

Later Tuesday, Jaua said a second U.S. Air Force attaché was being expelled, also for alleged espionage. The Pentagon said the officer, Devlin Costal, was already in the United States.

"Let's remember that active participation of the United States in the fascist coup of 2002," Jaua said.

Chavez has run Venezuela for more than 14 years as a virtual one-man show, gradually placing all state institutions under his personal control. But the former army paratrooper commander, who rose to fame by launching a failed 1992 coup, never groomed a successor with his same kind of force of personality.

The campaign for the upcoming election to replace him, though undeclared, has nevertheless already begun. Maduro has frequently commandeered all broadcast channels, Chavez-style, to tout the "revolution" and vilify the opposition.

Maduro on Tuesday repeated government claims that Capriles met in the United States over the weekend with right-wing U.S. conspirators and was planning to meet over the weekend with Roberta Jacobsen, assistant U.S. secretary of state for the hemisphere.

One personality on state TV also accused the Capriles family of buying a New York City apartment with stolen funds.

Capriles responded via Twitter Tuesday by calling Maduro a liar.

Environment

New study says 100 million sharks killed annually

BANGKOK—According to scientific findings released March 2 in the peer-reviewed journal *Marine Policy*, the number of sharks killed each year in commercial fisheries is estimated at 100 million, with a range between 63 million and 273 million. The authors also warn that the rate of fishing for shark species, many of which grow slowly and reproduce late in life, exceeds their ability to recover.

The estimates in the study—calculated by adding landed catch data reported to the United

Nations Food and Agriculture Organization to estimates of unreported landings, finned sharks, and other discards of dead sharks—comes at a critical time. Governments convene this week in Bangkok to consider shark protections under a treaty concerned with regulating international wildlife trade—the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, or CITES. The Pew Charitable Trusts is calling for immediate action to increase safeguards for some of the most

vulnerable species.

“Biologically, sharks simply can’t keep up with the current rate of exploitation and demand,” said Boris Worm, a marine biologist at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and lead author of the study. “Protective measures must be scaled up significantly in order to avoid further depletion and the possible extinction of many shark species.”

“This groundbreaking study confirms that people are killing an enormous number of sharks,” said Elizabeth Wilson, manager

of global shark conservation at Pew. “We are now the predators. Humans have mounted an unrelenting assault on sharks, and their numbers are crashing throughout the world’s oceans.”

The catch of sharks in commercial fisheries for their fins, meat, liver oil, cartilage, and other parts remains largely unregulated in most of the world, driving some populations toward extinction. This week, 177 governments from around the world are at the March 3-14 meeting of CITES in Bangkok.

Proposals to regulate the international trade of five species of sharks and two related manta rays have been submitted and co-sponsored by 37 countries for consideration at the meeting. The proposed shark species—the oceanic whitetip, porbeagle, and three types of hammerheads—are among the most valuable and vulnerable sharks in international trade.

“A simple vote ‘yes’ to support their listing could turn things around for some of the world’s most threatened shark

species,” Wilson said. “Countries should seize this opportunity to protect these top predators from extinction.”

CITES, which was agreed to in Washington, D.C., in 1973, offers protection to more than 30,000 animal and plant species around the globe. It has been instrumental in preventing their extinction and is generally recognized as one of the most effective and best-enforced international conservation agreements. (*Pew Environment Group*)



► Hammerhead sharks are targeted, and greatly valued, for their fins. A 2009 study in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean found that hammerheads have had a 70 percent decline in abundance since 1981. SHAWN HEINRICH/PEW ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Islands and partners strategize for next phase of GLISPA, Micronesia Challenge

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Throughout Washington, D.C. and northern Virginia last week, Pacific islanders met with other islanders from the Caribbean and West Indian Ocean as well as representatives of United Nations Conventions Secretariats and non-governmental organizations with the aim of enhancing the Global Island Partnership, or GLISPA, and preparing for Phase 2 of the Micronesia Challenge.

The mission of GLISPA is to help island governments and organizations meet their goals with respect to conservation and sustainable livelihoods, such as commitments taken under the Micronesia Challenge.

To this end, GLISPA has showcased the Micronesia Challenge at several high-level events, including at the Rio +20 conference, and Kate Brown, the Coordinator of GLISPA, frequently praises the Micronesia Challenge as the model for other regional conservation efforts.

Recognizing the value of being part of GLISPA's efforts, Asterio Takesy, FSM Ambassador to the United States, and Willy Kostka, executive director of the Micronesia Conservation Trust, participated in the GLISPA Steering Committee meeting on Feb. 19-20.

Other participants included Elbuchel Sadang, chief of staff to President Tommy Remengesau of Palau; Ronny Jumeau, the Roving Ambassador for Climate Change and Small Island Developing States Issues, the Seychelles; and Ketrick Pickering, Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources and Labor of the British Virgin Islands.

Representatives from the Secretariat of the Convention for Biological Diversity and the Secretariat of Convention to Combat Desertification were also active participants in the meeting, which was hosted at

times by three different conservation organizations, The Nature Conservancy, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and the Audubon Society.

GLISPA, which started as an experiment funded by TNC, IUCN, and the Italian government, has proven successful but has exhausted its seed money. Thus, one of the purposes of the meeting was to discuss how to finance GLISPA's core functions, and some early support

came from co-chairs Palau and the Seychelles in the form of \$10,000 a year pledges for three years and from the conservation organization Rare in the form of a donation of money and office space.

In addition to discussing GLISPA finances, participants also developed strategies for achieving GLISPA's substantive goals for 2013, which include combating invasive species, stimulating blue-green economic growth and accomplishing debt-for-adaptation swaps to finance ecosystem-based adaptation activities.

The GLISPA meeting concluded with a high-level briefing consisting of a presentation about the Micronesia Challenge, made by Kostka, as well as a presentation made by Chipper Wichman of the National Tropical Botanical Gardens in Hawaii about the Hawaii Green Growth Initiative and a third presentation made by Pickering about the upcoming Caribbean Challenge Summit.

Among the diplomats who joined the group for the high level segment were Winston Thompson, Ambassador from Fiji to the U.S., and Carlo Romeo, a counselor from the Embassy of Italy to the U.S.

On Feb. 22, a smaller group convened in the afternoon to discuss Phase 2 of the Micronesia Challenge. Ambassadors Takesy, Hersey Kyota from Pa-

lau, Charles Paul of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Kostka participated in the strategy session, which was facilitated by Trina Leberer of TNC and Jessica Robbins of GLISPA.

The Micronesia Challenge is a commitment by FSM, RMI, Palau, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to preserve the natural resources that are crucial to the survival of Pacific traditions, cultures and livelihoods. The ambitious goal of the Challenge is to effectively conserve at least 30 percent of the near-shore marine resources and 20 percent of the terrestrial resources across the region of Micronesia by 2020.

Substantial progress toward these conservation goals has been made since the inception of the Challenge in 2006 with the creation or strengthening of over 150 managed areas. These include a mangrove reserve in Pohnpei, a manta ray sanctuary in Yap, and a shark sanctuary in Kosrae, among many other protected areas. In the long run, the Micronesia Challenge could facilitate creation of the largest shark sanctuary in the world.

Since most initial financial commitments have now been fulfilled, the parties can commence Phase 2 of the Challenge, which will focus on sustainable finance, specifically, increasing the current endowment of \$12 million to \$58 million. The formal release of remaining matching funds from the FSM to secure TNC's final pledge to support the MC endowment is planned for the Pacific Islands Forum in RMI in September.

The Micronesia Conservation Trust, which manages the MC endowment, is preparing for Phase 2 by publishing its business plan, working to set up a system to enable online donations, increasing circulation of the One Micronesia email newsletter, and spreading awareness through social marketing campaigns run by Rare Conservation. (*ourmicronesia.org*)

Science Matters

These can ruin your recycling

Several contaminants can make used paper, glass and plastic useless for recycling because they interfere with the later processing back into consumer materials.

Noncontainer glass

Heavy metal oxides change recycling chemistry, make final product unusable

- Light bulbs, fluorescent tubes
- Ceramics (dishes, mugs)
- Window glass & mirrors
- Plastic, tin, aluminum lids
- Pyrex glass
- Drinking glasses



Plastic bags

Tangle and jam sorting machines and shredders

Clean, dry #2 or #4 plastic bags can be recycled at some grocery stores



Oily paper

Fouls the water slurry of shredded paper that is formed into recycled paper

Shredded paper

Too small to sort; sticks to and jams conveyor belts

Scrap metal

Damages sorting machines, even if only a small piece

What happens to rejects

1 oz. (25 g) of coffee cup fragments would make **1 ton of glass** useless for recycling; it would have to be sent to a landfill

Cities and recyclers have varying – and strict – standards for what they accept

They may reject cereal boxes, metal jar lids or some kinds of plastic

Source: Boulder County (Colorado) EcoCycle, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, MCT Photo Graphic: Helen Lee McComas

© 2013 MCT



Life & Style

Classic toys stay popular; many are now collectible

By KIM COOK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—In a megabyte-driven world, you'd think kids would be playing solely with mega-tech toys.

But at the recent Toy Fair 2013 here, buyers gathered like kids on a playground around the booths stocked with the classics—wooden play sets and ride-on toys, craft materials, table games and building sets.

"Retro-style toys for the under-tween crowd are on the upswing," says Adrienne Appell of the Toy Industry Association.

Kids may see the un-wired stuff as novel; parents appreciate having some balance in the toy basket.

Here's a look at some of the new offerings, and also which toys are worth hanging onto after kids outgrow them.

WHAT'S NEW

Building sets—including Lego—are hotter than ever, according to consumer market research firm NPD Group. The category grew nearly 20 percent in 2012, the group said.

Lego's booth at the February fair included new entries in the Lego City and Lego Friends categories, the new Galaxy Squad space fantasy sets, and the DUPLO Read and Build sets, among others.

K'Nex representatives were writing orders for glow-in-the-dark rollercoasters, and construction sets based on Angry Birds, Pac-Man and Super Mario. The manufacturer's Robo Battlers allow kids to make smaller figures and stick them together to make a more elaborate creation.

And Tinkertoys are turning 100 this year, now rendered in durable high-density plastic. The colorful components include perennial favorites like rods, spools and washers, as well as some new bendable pieces.

British-based Le Toy Van offered high-end, high-quality, creative-play toys: sustainably produced rubberwood and engineered-wood dollhouses, pirate ships and accessories, with accompanying characters. The company's faux food array included petit fours, fine chocolates and croissants.

Some toymakers were touting franchises be-

loved by today's kids' parents: board games and figures based on Cabbage Patch Dolls, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and Fraggles Rock. There were Bozo the Clown outdoor games. And New York-based Yottoy had old-timey books like "Harry the Dog," "The Poky Little Puppy" and "Scuffy the Tugboat" paired with plush toys.

In arts and crafts, Crayola's booth showed new kits for making custom markers and crayons. Play-Doh demonstrated a new fluffier formula, while at Waba Fun, buyers were elbow-deep in Bubber, a never-dries-out play dough made with hollow ceramic beads and non-toxic polymers; Shape-It sand, which can be formed, baked, sculpted and then warmed back into a pile to start again; and Kinetic Sand, another polymer-filled sand.

OLDIES BUT GOODIES

When a kid outgrows them or loses interest, which toys are worth hanging onto?

Those with sentimental value, perhaps—books, dolls or train sets that parents dream might one day be passed on to grandchildren.

And then there are collectibles.

"I think the ones based on popular movies and shows might have value. Couple that with a brand-name toy and you've got a potential collectible," says Bene Raia of Boston, one of the antiques pickers on PBS' "Market Warriors."

Hard-to-find sets of "Star Wars" Lego, for instance, are worth big bucks, she says; an out-of-production Rebel Snowspeeder was recently offered online for more than \$1,300.

And pay attention even to what's in those fast-food bags.

"One of the biggest surprises in toy collecting is the Happy Meal giveaway," Raia says. Tie-ins to films offer an instant cross-collectible, that is, an

item of value in more than one collectors' marketplace. Whole sets command more on the resale market; a "101 Dalmatians" Happy Meal set from McDonald's now sells on eBay for around \$100.

Raia says many toys from the Baby Boom era are valuable now—Louis Marx toy trains, Madame Alexander Cissy dolls from the 1950s, Parachute Jump erector sets from the '40s—especially if they have the original boxes and accessories.

That's key: Keep the packaging.

"Some people will buy two boxes of Lego, one to play with and one to keep," Raia says. "It might sound extreme, but for the 'Star Wars' series it might be a good idea."

Hawaii Senate passes Steven Tyler Act on privacy

By ANITA HOFSCHEIDER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—The Hawaii state Senate passed the so-called Steven Tyler Act Tuesday, a bill that seeks to protect celebrities from overeager paparazzi by creating a civil violation if people take unwanted photos or videos of others in their private moments.

The Aerosmith frontman from Massachusetts asked Sen. Kalani English to sponsor the legislation after unwanted photos were taken of him and his girlfriend last December and published in a national magazine, causing family drama.

Tyler owns a multimillion dollar home in Maui, which is part of English's district. English said the proposal could help increase celebrity tourism in Hawaii.

Twenty-three of the state's 25 Senate members voted in favor of the bill, which now goes to the House for consideration.

Sen. Sam Slom, the body's only Republican, opposed the measure.

"We have been the butt of many editorials and jokes across the country for this proposed legislation," he said.

Slom said senators had fun with the bill, but Hawaii has adequate laws protecting privacy and

In this publicity photo provided by courtesy Bene Raia/WGBH, shows a detail view of a Death Star game. Toy collectible expert and picker featured on PBS' "Market Warriors," Bene Raia, says the Star Wars Lego toys, like this Death Star, are highly collectible and will continue to be so. Some parents opt to buy one kit for the kids to play with and one for saving intact.

When is it time to get rid of toys?

Raia, a mother of four under age 10, says her rule of thumb is simple. "Anything that hasn't been played with in the past three or four months, we give away."

Incomplete games and sets can be donated or passed along, although with a popular toy she suggests posting it online to help someone else complete their set.

US museum adds 77-carat brooch to gem collection

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History has an addition to its famous gem collection: It is a butterfly brooch made of 2,300 gems.

The "Royal Butterfly Brooch" was created in 2009 by Taiwanese jewelry artist Cindy Chao. She is donating the piece to the museum, making it the first Taiwanese-designed item in the National Gem Collection. It goes on display Wednesday.

The Royal Butterfly is composed of 2,328 gems, totaling 77 carats. It includes colored and color-changing sapphires and diamonds, rubies and tsavorite garnets. The centerpieces of the butterfly's wings are four large-faceted diamond slices.

Curators say it sparkles in



This undated handout photo provided by The Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History shows one side of the "Royal Butterfly Brooch."

daylight but under ultraviolet light in the dark, it glows. Officials say it's worth \$680,000.

The butterfly joins the Hope Diamond and Marie Antoinette earrings on display.

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Jack The Giant Slayer 3D

Friday		7:20
Saturday	1:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	7:20
Mon through Thurs		7:20

Cast: Nicholas Hoult, John Kassir, Ewan McGregor
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Eagle Eye director D.J. Caruso helms a dramatic interpretation of the classic Jack and the Beanstalk tale with this New Line Cinema production. Darren Lemke and Mark Bomback provide the script for the Neal Moritz/David Dobkin-produced fantasy drama.



Jack The Giant Slayer 2D

Friday	4:20	9:50
Saturday	4:20	9:50
Sunday	4:20	
Mon through Thurs	4:20	

Cast: Nicholas Hoult, John Kassir, Ewan McGregor
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13



The Last Exorcism II

Friday	4:15	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Mon through Thurs		4:15	7:15

Cast: Ashley Bell, Julia Garner, Spencer Treat Clark
Genre: Horror, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

As Nell Sweetzer tries to build a new life after the events of the first movie, the evil force that once possessed her returns with an even more horrific plan.



21 and Over

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Mon through Thurs		4:25	7:25

Cast: Justin Chon, Miles Teller, Jonathan Keltz
Genre: Comedy • Rated R



Snitch

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Mon through Thurs		4:10	7:10

Cast: Dwane Johnson, Benjamin Bratt, Barry Pepper
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13



Escape From Planet Earth 3D

Friday	4:00	9:45
Saturday	4:00	9:45
Sunday	4:00	
Mon through Thurs	4:00	

Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG



Escape From Planet Earth 2D

Friday		7:00
Saturday	1:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	7:00
Mon through Thurs		7:00

Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG



Good Day To Die Hard

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
MO through Thurs		4:05	7:05

Cast: Bruce Willis, Cole Hauser, Jai Courtney
Genre: Action • Rated R



Beautiful Creatures

Friday	4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Mon through Thurs		4:30	7:30

Cast: Emma Rossum, Emma Thompson, Jeremy Irons
Genre: Romance, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

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Tommy Lee Jones takes on MacArthur in 'Emperor'

By ROGER MOORE
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ORLANDO, Fla.—“Happily,” Tommy Lee Jones says, “I bear no resemblance to Douglas MacArthur at all.”

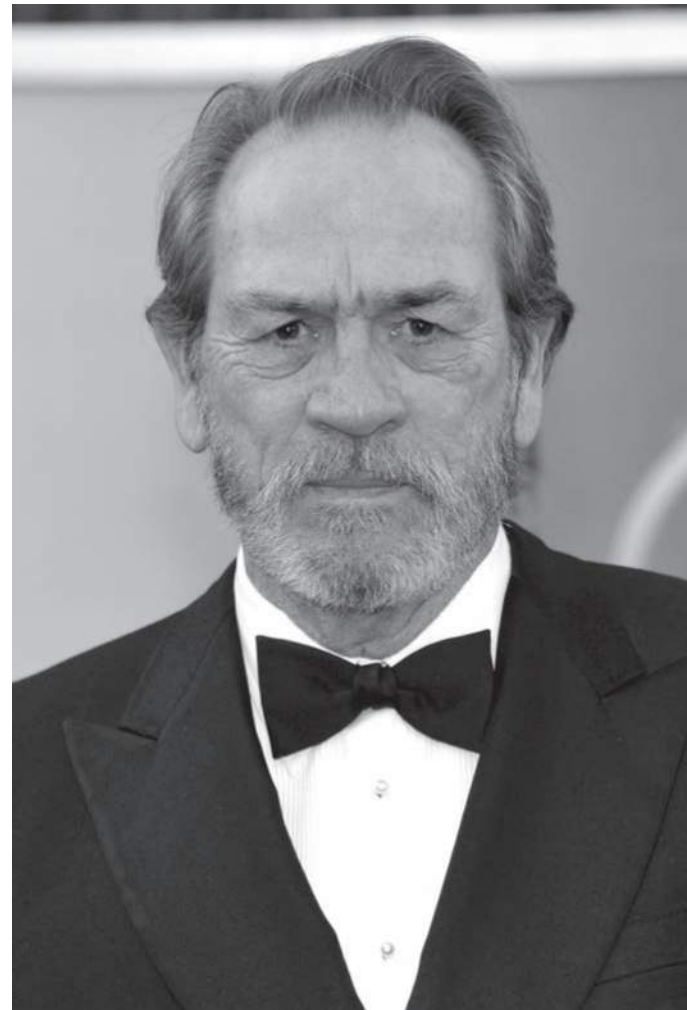
And if you're going to portray the World War II general nicknamed “American Caesar” by some historians, that's a liberating thing.

“That job is done by the corn-cob pipe and the aviator sunglasses. And the hat, with LOTS of gold on it.”

Most people do not remember or even know “who the man was, Americans being ignorant of their own history,” Jones says. That's one reason he took the role in the new film, “Emperor,” MacArthur being an important figure Jones figures we ought to remember. And he knew, too, that he'd have some license in interpreting MacArthur, because it's been difficult even for historians to get under the skin of the “real” general of the Army, victor in the Pacific, head of the occupation of Japan and the man who conceived the daring Incheon landings that turned the tide in the Korean War.

“The only recordings of his spoken voice are speeches, on public occasions, before large numbers of people,” Jones says. “Very controlled, very impressive because he knew he needed to impress.”

Even though both MacArthur and Jones were born in Texas, that was no help, because “MacArthur was born on an Army base,” so no Texas accent Jones could build on. The voice “was very formal, oratorical. Pretentious, patrician, also. The accent



AP
Actor Tommy Lee Jones arrives at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre on Sunday Feb. 24, 2013, in Los Angeles.

seems narcissistic, too. There aren't any candid photographs of him, either. Very much in control of his image.”

The MacArthur that Jones delivers in “Emperor” is off the cuff, cagey and salty—a career soldier who swears and imperiously sets his own foreign policy, brushing off Washington, working out whether to prosecute Emperor Hirohito for war crimes. In the film he gives the job to a trusted

aide, Gen. Bonner Fellers (Matthew Fox), a real historical figure with a Hollywood-invented romantic past (a love affair with a Japanese woman).

“It's a love story, East meeting West, told in personal terms, with all this history as a backdrop,” Jones explains.

Jones, fresh off the Oscar nomination for playing another historical figure, Congressman Thaddeus Stevens in “Lincoln,”

happily took on a supporting role in “Emperor” because “if you realize what MacArthur did and why, you have a better understanding of both countries, and the better side of both countries.”

At 66, Jones hasn't aged out of the “rascally” label film scholar David Thomson slapped on him in his “Biographical Dictionary of Film” in the last century. In recent years, Jones has made his living off the irascible persona he carved out of his Oscar-winning character in “The Fugitive” and “U.S. Marshals,” so much so that when cameras pan to him not laughing in the audience at Golden Globes, and to him cracking up when Oscar host Seth MacFarlane began the Oscars telecast with, “And the quest to make Tommy Lee Jones laugh begins now,” we all get the joke—Jones included.

His crusty side—notorious in interviews—surfaces only when asked about the movie he's about to direct and co-star in with Meryl Streep, Hillary Swank and Tim Blake Nelson. “The Homesman,” which will film in April in New Mexico, is set in the 19th century, a quest tale about a pioneer woman and a mining “claim jumper” who escort a trio of insane women from Nebraska to Iowa.

Whatever you do, don't call it a “Western.”

“This stupid label—‘Western’—it's hard to get around that,” he grouses. “There are a lot of people, who, once they teach themselves to pronounce that word ‘Western,’ think they understand the movies.”

New Fox sports network to debut in August

NEW YORK (AP)—For anyone who thinks TV is already saturated with sports of every stripe, stay tuned.

Here comes Fox with an in-your-face challenge to ESPN—a 24-hour sports cable network called Fox Sports 1, set to launch Aug. 17.

“ESPN, quite frankly, is a machine,” Fox Sports executive vice president Bill Wanger said Tuesday in announcing the venture. “They have very consistent ratings, obviously huge revenue. We're coming in trying to take on the establishment. It's no different than Fox News or Fox Broadcasting back in the '80s. We're going to have to scratch and claw our way all the way to the top.”

To do that, Fox executives are confident they have enough live events, with rights to college basketball and football, NASCAR, soccer and UFC fights. In its first year, the new network will broadcast nearly 5,000 hours of live competition and news.

Fox owns rights to many Big 12, Pac-12 and Conference USA basketball and football games. Its soccer deals include UEFA Champions League and the men's and women's World

Cups from 2015-22.

Starting in 2014, FS1 will start broadcasting Major League Baseball games, including part of the postseason. It will show some NASCAR Sprint Cup Series races as early as 2015, with other NASCAR events on the air from the startup.

“We believe we've amassed enough live events and can package and put programming around it where we can have scale,” Fox Sports co-President Randy Freer said. “We can have significance. We can be a major player in the market.”

However, unlike ESPN's lineup, there's no NBA, no SEC football, no ACC basketball and, the biggest attraction of all, no NFL games. On that last point, Wanger was quick to add: “Yet.”

Still to be determined is whether the NFL sells some Thursday night games separately from its NFL Network package. If it does, everyone will try to buy a piece of the action.

That will be the case for any rights deals that come along soon; there aren't many, with long-term pacts now the norm. NBC and CBS already have their own cable sports networks, and Turner is also a factor. Fox

Sports co-President Eric Shanks mentioned the NBA, Big Ten and U.S. Open tennis as appealing properties whose contracts expire in the next several years.

FS1 has two main challenges, he said. One is producing enough alluring live events to draw viewers, and he thinks the network is already in good shape to do that. The other is inertia: Fans accustomed to tuning to ESPN must be persuaded to switch to a different network.

“People need to over time feel like there's a channel number in their head that they can go to as an alternative to one of the more powerful sports channels out there,” he said.

Will they watch nightly highlights on something other than “SportsCenter”? FS1 will try to find out with its own news show, which will look more like Fox's NFL pregame coverage than ESPN's cornerstone program.

“We like our position,” ESPN spokesman Josh Krulowitz said. “We have always had vigorous competition so there is really nothing substantially new here. Others are, however, beginning to recognize what we have long known: The power of live sports, especially in light of technological advances, is sub-

stantial and brings tremendous value in today's entertainment landscape.”

ESPN has eight cable networks that combine for almost 30,000 hours of live coverage.

FS1 will be converted from Speed, a motorsports network, and will be available in 90 million homes, compared with 98 million for ESPN and ESPN2.

And in what might seem odd for a company known for drawing a young audience, Regis Philbin will host a weekday sports talk show for the new network. The 81-year-old Philbin jokingly pretended to be hard of hearing when questions came up about this at the news conference.

Wanger noted that “Live! With Regis and Kelly” did well in younger demographics before Philbin left that show in late 2011.

“Regis has appeal from young to old,” Wanger said. “That's why we want him.”

Fox plans to use its “double box” format for showing commercials during live action for sports events. Kicking off the coverage on Aug. 17 will be a NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race from Michigan and a UFC event in prime time.

'Django,' 'Ted' lead MTV Movie Awards nominees

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A bloody Western and the comedic tale of a trash-talking teddy bear lead nominees for the 2013 MTV Movie Awards.

Edward Furlong sentenced to 6 months in LA jail

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Court records show a judge has sentenced Edward Furlong to six months in jail for violating his probation in a 2010 case.

The "Terminator 2" star was accused of disobeying the terms of his sentence in a domestic violence case in which he was convicted of violating a restraining order.



Furlong

The 35-year-old actor has been the subject of restraining orders filed by both his ex-wife and an ex-girlfriend. Furlong was charged in January with battery on his ex-girlfriend in a case that remains pending.

Furlong's attorney Brian Michaels did not immediately return a phone message seeking comment.

Superior Court Judge Dennis Mulcahy directed officials not to release the actor early or give him credit for time served, but jail records showed Tuesday that he may be released in late May.

MTV announced Tuesday that "Django Unchained" and "Ted" each have seven bids at the annual kudo-fest, set to air live on April 14 from the Sony Pictures lot in Culver City, California.

"Silver Linings Playbook" earned six nominations and "The Dark Knight Rises" collected five. Other top nominees include "The Avengers," "Skyfall," "Pitch Perfect" and "The Perks of Being a Wallflower."

Fans can vote online for the winners in all categories, including the two newest ones: Best shirtless performance and best musical moment.

Double nominee Rebel Wilson will host the show. She'll be joined by Will Ferrell, who will receive MTV's inaugural Comic Genius Award.

Stewart taking 'Daily Show' break to direct film

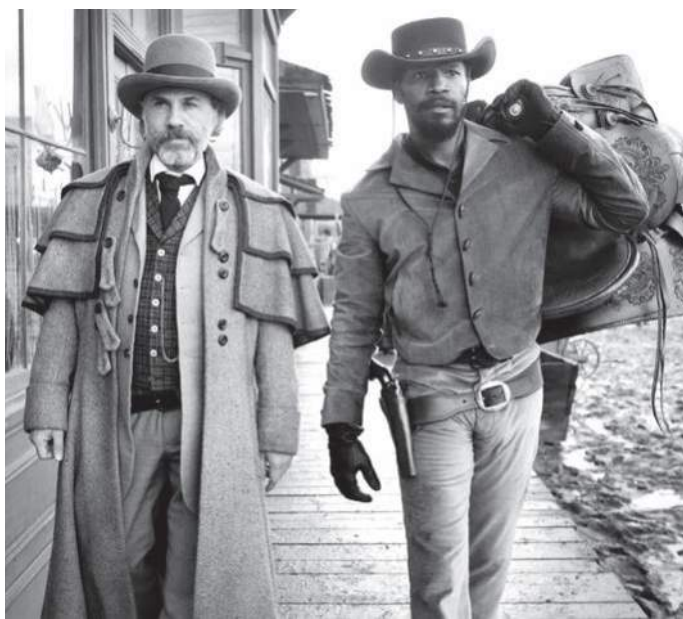
NEW YORK (AP)—Comedy Central says Jon Stewart will take a break from anchoring his satirical comedy news show, "The Daily Show," in summer to direct and produce his first feature film, based on a book by Iranian journalist Maziar Bahari.

The network said Tuesday that correspondent-writer John Oliver will host the fake news show during Stewart's hiatus. The British-born Oliver has been a "Daily Show" regular since 2006.

Stewart is expected back in the anchor chair in September.

The film, titled "Rosewater," was written by Stewart.

London resident Bahari was falsely accused of being a spy and imprisoned by the Iranian



This undated publicity file image released by The Weinstein Company shows, from left, Christoph Waltz as Schultz and Jamie Foxx as Django in the film "Django Unchained," directed by Quentin Tarantino.



This Oct. 18, 2012 file photo shows host Jon Stewart during a taping of "The Daily Show with John Stewart", in New York.

government in 2009 while covering Iran's presidential election. Before being jailed, he was

interviewed in Iran by "Daily Show" correspondent Jason Jones.

Thought of going to the dentist wipes smile off woman's face

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am writing to you because I can share this anonymously. I am close to 60 years old and I'm terrified of the dentist. Every time I pick up the phone to make an appointment I get so anxious I feel like I'm going to die.

Do you think I will be able to find a caring, compassionate and nonjudgmental dentist? Are they out there? Sometimes I wish I could die instead of going to the dentist. Am I crazy?



Dear Abby

MRS. ANXIETY IN THE U.S.A.

DEAR MRS. ANXIETY: Let me put it this way—if you're crazy, you have a lot of company. Many people fear going to the dentist. However, there have been improvements in the field since you were a child—including sedation for people who choose "not to be there" while their dental problems are being attended to.

Good dental health is very important to our overall health, so please don't put off any further making an appointment. Tell the person who is booking the appointment what your needs are, and if that dentist can't accommodate you, ask for a referral to one who can.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been a nanny for four families over the last 10 years. I am now working for a family of five. I don't make a lot of money, but I enjoy what I do.

My problem is all the gift-buying I feel required to do—such as on the children's birthdays, Christmas and the mom's birth of more babies. My employer is expecting yet another baby this summer and her 3-year-old has another birthday coming up.

I'm tired of the gift-buying and really can't afford to do it anymore. When the new baby is born, I am tempted to just say "Congratulations!" Any suggestions?

GIFTED OUT

DEAR GIFTED OUT: Yes. When the newest addition to the family arrives, give your employer a nice card. You should not be expected to come up with a gift. You are already giving these children loving and responsible care and that is gift enough.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: During the first year of our marriage, my husband cheated on me with women from his past as well as new encounters. When I confronted him, he promised to stop. He would then call and email these women, and tell them I was checking up on him and he'd contact them later.

This has gone on for years. He swears he's no longer cheating, and we have sought counseling—which I stopped because the counselor and I agreed that my husband didn't think he had a problem.

When I confront him with my suspicions, he insists that I am "driving him away" by accusing him. He is very arrogant, and people who don't know him believe he's a great guy and I am the problem. I have considered revenge cheating, but it goes against my morals. I think about divorcing him, but then I think -- what if I am wrong? What if he really is being faithful? What should I do? I love him.

UNSURE IN TEXAS

DEAR UNSURE: I agree that "revenge" cheating is not the solution to your problem. Hire a private detective and get to the bottom of this. If you're wrong, you need counseling to resolve your insecurities. However, if he's cheating, you will know you haven't been imagining things and can decide rationally if it's in your best interests to continue being married to a womanizer.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

CHART TOPPERS

The top 10 songs and albums on the iTunes Store for the week ending March 4, 2013:

TOP SONGS

1. "Thrift Shop (feat. Wanz)," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
2. "When I Was Your Man," Bruno Mars
3. "Harlem Shake," Baauer
4. "Heart Attack," Demi Lovato
5. "Stay (feat. Mikky Ekko)," Rihanna
6. "Started from the Bottom," Drake
7. "Suit & Tie (feat. JAY Z)," Justin Timberlake
8. "Scream & Shout (feat. Britney Spears)," will.i.am
9. "I Knew You Were Trouble," Taylor
10. "Feel This Moment (feat. Christina Aguilera)," Pitbull

TOP ALBUMS

1. "Zion," Hillsong United
2. "Amok," Atoms for Peace
3. "Unorthodox Jukebox," Bruno Mars
4. "Babel," Mumford & Sons
5. "Pitch Perfect (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)," Various Artists

Soundtrack)," Various Artists

6. "The Heist," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
7. "Night Visions," Imagine Dragons
8. "The Lumineers," The Lumineers
9. "Some Nights," Fun.
10. "Les Misérables: Highlights from the Motion Picture Soundtrack," Various Artists

The top iPhone and iPad apps on App Store for the week ending March 4, 2013:

TOP PAID IPHONE APPS

1. WhatsApp Messenger (WhatsApp Inc.)
2. Minecraft - Pocket Edition (Mojang)
3. Clear Vision 2 (DP-FLASHES STUDIO)
4. Toy Story: Smash it! (Disney)
5. Major Magnet (Iddiction)
6. Bad Piggies (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
7. Angry Birds Star Wars (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
8. Sleep Cycle alarm clock (Maciek Drejak Labs)
9. Plague Inc. (Ndemic Cre-

ations)

10. 8 Ball Pool (Miniclip.com)

TOP FREE IPHONE APPS

1. 4 Pics 1 Word (LOTUM GmbH)
2. Real Racing 3 (Electronic Arts)
3. C o c o P P a - J a p a n Kawaii(cute) icons wallpaper fashion illustration home-screen decoration app custom (SPIRE, Inc.)
4. YouTube (Google, Inc.)
5. Candy Crush Saga (King.com Limited)
6. Temple Run 2 (Imangi Studios, LLC)
7. Google Maps (Google, Inc.)
8. Cheat for 4 Pics 1 Word - get all the answers now with free auto game import! (Cheat Master And Friends Words Cheats LLC)
9. Facebook (Facebook, Inc.)
10. Instagram (Burbn, Inc.)

TOP PAID IPAD APPS

1. Toy Story: Smash it! (Disney)
2. Minecraft-Pocket Edition (Mojang)

3. TWheel of Fortune (Sony Pictures Television)

4. Bad Piggies HD (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
5. Pages (Apple)
6. Temple Run: Brave (Disney)
7. 8 Ball Pool (Miniclip.com)
8. Angry Birds Star Wars HD (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
9. Plants vs. Zombies HD (PopCap)
10. iMovie (Apple)

TOP FREE IPAD APPS

1. Real Racing 3 (Electronic Arts)
2. 4 Pics 1 Word (LOTUM GmbH)
3. Nick (Nickelodeon)
4. YouTube (Google, Inc.)
5. Plants vs. Zombies HD (PopCap)
6. Candy Crush Saga (King.com Limited)
7. Monsters, Inc. Run (Disney)
8. Temple Run 2 (Imangi Studios, LLC)
9. Calculator for iPad Free (International Travel Weather Calculator)
10. Skype for iPad (Skype Communications S.a.r.l)

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1-Plumber \$ 5.55 - \$ 5.75/hr. Min. of 5 yrs. experience. Fax resume to 234-7976. Kimco Ent. Inc.

3-Carpenters \$ 5.55 - \$ 5.75/hr. Min. of 5 yrs. experience. Fax resume to 234-7976. Kimco Ent. Inc.

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Pierce helps Celtics top slumping 76ers, 109-101



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—So much for Boston's grim outlook once Rajon Rondo was lost for the season.

Avery Bradley has followed the trusted blueprint of dogged defense and impact scoring to help push the Celtics up the standings.

Bradley scored a season-high 22 points, and Paul Pierce had 18 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Boston Celtics to a 109-101 win over the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday night.

Kevin Garnett scored 18 points to help the Celtics improve to 12-4 since Rondo was lost with a torn knee ligament. The Celtics entered in seventh place, but were no more than two games behind the next three teams ahead in the standings. Bradley was 10 of 15 and chipped in seven rebounds and five assists, the kind of numbers needed for the Celtics to slip into a coveted top-four spot for the playoffs.

"My teammates have confidence in me and I have confidence in myself," Bradley said. "When I have an open shot, I have to take it. That's how we play on this team. It helps us when I do that."

Led by Pierce, the Celtics controlled the game and used a 9-0 run midway through the fourth quarter to seal the win. Last May, these two teams went to Game 7 of the Eastern Conference semifinals. On Wednesday, the Sixers lost for the ninth time in 10 games and are well out of the playoff race.

Jrue Holiday had 18 points and 10 assists for the Sixers, and Thaddeus Young had 19 points and 10 rebounds. Evan Turner



Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce (34) drives against Philadelphia 76ers' Evan Turner (12) in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, March 5, 2013, in Philadelphia. AP

scored 18 points.

"We kept competing, trying to bring effort," Turner said. "But it's rough. They hit 3s and made some tough shots."

The Sixers beat the Celtics twice this season after stretching the Celtics to seven games in last year's playoff series. But the Sixers are a team in free-fall because of injuries and a roster ill-equipped to handle the losses of postseason standouts Andre Iguodala and Lou Williams.

There was some mild concern late in the fourth period when Holiday, their All-Star point guard, was hurt. Holiday grabbed his right ankle and hobbled back on defense after an awkward drive. He hopped on one foot after a steal attempt went nowhere, but did stay in the game.

Nothing much went right for the Sixers.

"We just missed too many easy shots," said Royal Ivey, who scored 10 points.

Like so many teams over the last 15 years, the Sixers had no real answer for Pierce. He hit his first four 3-point attempts, each one more crushing than the last. When the Sixers went on a mini-run to close within eight, Pierce and Jason Terry connected on consecutive 3s to build a comfortable lead.

Pierce had averaged 21.8 points over 54 career games against the 76ers.

At one point in the first half, both teams were 15 of 32 from the field. The Celtics found other ways to separate themselves from the Sixers: Boston went to the free-throw line and made

3s. The Sixers missed 9 of 11 3-point attempts in the first half and were 0 for 3 from the free-throw line.

The Sixers finished 5 of 21 on 3s and 14 of 18 on foul shots. They did score 64 points in the paint.

But they only made 41 of a whopping 100 shots from the floor. The Celtics shot a solid 5 percent in the third (11 of 20) and 53 percent (10 of 19) in the fourth to methodically build to a 15-point lead.

"It was who could score the most. That's not the way we want to play the game," Garnett said.

Boston got sloppy at the end of the third quarter and had three turnovers in the final 90 seconds. That helped the Sixers score six straight points and slice the lead to five. Jordan Crawford opened the fourth period with a pair of 3-pointers that made it 91-76 and the Celtics never let up from there.

Crawford's points and production off the bench were needed for a veteran team with another game Wednesday night at Indiana. He scored 12 points and fellow reserve Jeff Green added 16. Pierce's perfection helped the Celtics go 11 of 19 from 3-point range.

"That's the new us in a lot of ways, the ball finds the open guy," coach Doc Rivers said. "It's simple, but it's hard to do unless you buy in. Everyone has bought in."

Thunder 122, Lakers 105

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook had 37 points and 10 rebounds, Kevin Durant scored 26 and the Thunder held off a

second-half charge.

The Thunder led from start to finish, but had their 18-point lead whittled down to five midway through the fourth quarter. Serge Ibaka, who dodged a suspension after delivering a low blow against Blake Griffin in Oklahoma City's previous game, hit a 3-pointer and Westbrook had a two-handed slam as the Thunder scored the last 12 points.

Kobe Bryant ended up with 30 points after leaving the game with a right elbow injury in the first quarter. Steve Nash matched his season best with 20 points as the Lakers fell back below .500 after reaching the mark for the first time since December.

Oklahoma City tied an NBA record with two turnovers. Milwaukee set the record in a game against Indiana on April 1, 2006, and Cleveland tied it in an overtime game against Portland on March 19, 2009.

Nuggets 120, Kings 113

In Sacramento, California, Ty Lawson had 24 points and Danilo Gallinari added 23 for the Nuggets as they won their sixth straight game.

The deep and talented Nuggets used a 36-point third quarter to build a lead against the Kings that they never relinquished in winning their season-best third straight road game. They scored 70 second-half points when they shot nearly 64 percent.

The streaking Nuggets have won seven of eight games, including 11 in a row at home, where they own a 26-3 record, which ties Miami for the best mark in the NBA.

Kenneth Faried had 19 points and 12 rebounds, Andre Miller scored 16 and Kosta Koufos had 15 points and eight rebounds for Denver.

Marcus Thornton continued his torrid scoring of late, making five 3-pointers and getting in 32 points for the Kings.

NBA BRIEFS

NBA to play 8 preseason games at overseas venues

LONDON (AP)—The NBA is going overseas for eight preseason games in October, with stops in Europe, Asia and South America. The Oklahoma City Thunder will open the proceedings by playing Turkish team Fenerbahce on Oct. 5 in Istanbul. The Philadelphia 76ers follow a day later against Uxue Bilbao in Spain. The Thunder and 76ers then meet on Oct. 8 in Manchester, England. The Houston Rockets and Indiana Pacers will meet on Oct. 10 in Manila, Philippines, and again on Oct. 13 in Taipei, Taiwan. Also in Asia, the Golden State Warriors and Los Angeles Lakers will play each other on Oct. 15 in Beijing and then again three days later in Shanghai. In South America, the Chicago Bulls will play the Washington Wizards on Oct. 12 in Rio de Janeiro.

Ibaka fined \$25,000 for hit on Griffin

NEW YORK (AP)—Oklahoma City forward Serge Ibaka has been fined \$25,000 by the NBA for striking Blake Griffin of the Los Angeles Clippers in the groin area during Sunday's NBA game. NBA executive vice president for basketball operations Stu Jackson announced the fine on Tuesday. The league also upgraded the Flagrant Foul 1 the Spaniard was given for hitting Griffin as the two battled for position in the paint to a Flagrant Foul 2, meaning Ibaka should have been ejected from the game. The incident occurred with 1:52 remaining in the fourth quarter of the Thunder's 108-104 win over the Clippers at Staples Center.

HOUSTON (AP)—Aaron Brooks is back with the Houston Rockets and he's back with an all-new cast.

The 6-foot Brooks signed with Houston on Tuesday, returning to the team that drafted him with the 26th overall pick in 2007. The Rockets traded Brooks in February 2011 and have since changed coaches and completely rebuilt the roster.

When Brooks walked into his first practice, he didn't see a single teammate from his previous time in Houston.

"A whole bunch of new guys," Brooks said. "But everybody seems pretty cool and I'm happy to be back."

To make room for Brooks, the Rockets waived forward Tyler Honeycutt, who was acquired from Sacramento in a multi-player trade just before the deadline. Houston picked up rookie

Brooks signs with Houston, practices Tuesday

Thomas Robinson and Francisco Garcia in that deal and now add Brooks, who averaged eight points and 2.3 assists in 46 games for the Kings this season.

Brooks was waived by Sacramento on Friday, and he becomes the third point guard on Houston's roster, joining Jeremy Lin and Patrick Beverley. Coach Kevin McHale said it was too early to tell how he would use Brooks or how quickly he would work into the rotation.

"Aaron's comfortable with Houston, he's been here before, so hopefully that will help him," McHale said. "It's his first day, he's got to figure out a lot of new stuff."

The Rockets (33-28) hold the No. 7 spot in the Western Conference heading into Wednesday's

game in Dallas. The Rockets routed the Mavericks 136-103 on Sunday night, Houston's fourth win in six games and the last thing Brooks wants to do is upset chemistry.

"It's a good team, Lin is playing well and Patrick's playing well," Brooks said. "That gives you a little bit of time to kind of ease your way into it and kind of fit in."

Brooks, 28, played his first 3 1/2 NBA seasons in Houston, averaging 12.8 points and 3.6 assists per game from 2007-11. He took over the starting role when Rafer Alston was traded in February 2009 and helped Houston advance to the second round of the postseason for the first time since 1997.

Lin, four years younger, is

eager to see what he can learn from Brooks as the Rockets try to return to the postseason for the first time in four seasons.

"He's a little older, so he'll be able to give us guidance and help and leadership," Lin said. "That's what we need. He'll be a stabilizer for us."

Brooks showed spectacular flashes during Houston's last playoff run, in 2009. He scored 27 points in a first-round win over Portland and scored 34 in a rousing playoff victory over the Los Angeles Lakers. He had his best statistical season in 2009-10, averaging 19.6 points and 5.3 assists per game. He led the NBA and set a Rockets' single-season record with 209 3-pointers that season and was named the league's most im-

proved player.

Brooks was traded to Phoenix for Goran Dragic and played in China during the lockout. He had to play out his contract there, delaying the possibility of returning to the NBA. But he made the most of his time there, leading the Guangdong Southern Tigers to the championship round.

"I wouldn't take that back for the world," Brooks said. "A lot of guys don't get a chance to do that. Just that whole 'being out of the country and being able to survive when you don't speak the main language' was a good opportunity and learning experience for me."

The Kings signed Brooks to a two-year contract in July 2012, then bought it out when

they waived him last week.

Two seasons ago, Brooks sprained his left ankle early in the season, lost his starting job to Kyle Lowry and then was suspended one game for leaving the bench during a victory over Memphis. He apologized to then-coach Rick Adelman and general manager Daryl Morey, then was traded two weeks later.

Brooks said he got over that a long time ago and was happy the Rockets thought of him after the Kings let him go.

"That means I must've done something right when I was here," Brooks said. "I kind of went out on a bad note. To have the team that traded you want you back, it feels real good. I was cool with the coaching staff when I left, I thought. I don't think there are any problems at all. I don't remember that much of it."

Bills' Merriman announces plans to retire



BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—Linebacker Shawne Merriman is calling it “Lights Out” on his career.

The three-time Pro Bowl selection and 2005 NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year said on his website Tuesday night that he intends to file retirement papers.

“I retire today not because I don’t feel I can go out there and still play the game at a very high level,” Merriman wrote. “I am retiring because I want to retire on my own terms and leave while I know I can still physically play the game.”

The team later confirmed Merriman’s intentions in a text message and on its Twitter account.

The 28-year-old Merriman also posted a note on his Twitter account, which included a link to his website (shawnemerriman.com). “I have a very Big announcement,” Merriman wrote. “Thanks everybody.”

The decision comes a week before he was eligible to become a free agent, and after spending parts of the past three seasons in Buffalo. That included last year, when he was cut by the Bills in August only to be re-signed by Buffalo in October to help address the team’s injury-riddled defense.

Merriman had expressed surprise he went unsigned for the first six weeks of last season. He returned to the Bills with a noticeably sun-burnt face, sheepishly explaining he had fallen asleep on the beach after working out at his home in Miami.

In signing a one-year \$700,000 contract, Merriman finished last season with 17 tackles and one sack in 10 games, including one start. That was a marked drop-off for a player who became an instant NFL star after being selected by San Diego 12th overall in the 2005 draft.

Combining for 39 1/2 sacks in his first three seasons with the Chargers, Merriman earned the nickname “Lights Out” as one of the league’s fiercest pass rushers.

A series of injuries, however, caught up to him, and he was particularly bothered by a sore right Achilles tendon. It’s an injury that led to the Chargers waiving him during the 2010 season.

The Bills acquired his rights soon after, but Merriman never made it past his first practice in Buffalo after aggravating the injury. He was limited to playing five games in 2011 before being placed on injured reserve to have surgery to repair the partially torn tendon.



In this Dec. 20, 2012, file photo, Buffalo Bills linebacker Shawne Merriman (56) walks on the field before an NFL football game against the New York Jets in Orchard Park, N.Y. AP

Each offseason in Buffalo, Merriman declared himself to be fully healthy, and ready to regain his dominant form.

Last spring, Merriman compared himself to Benjamin Button, the fictional movie character who aged in reverse.

“I feel young,” he said. “Anybody that will get a chance to watch me this year will see I’m moving around as I did when I came into the league.”

By the end, his play never matched his bold pronouncements.

Merriman was limited to 18 games over his final three seasons. And he finished with 45 1/2 career sacks in 75 games, including 59 starts.

Merriman also made headlines for his on- and off-field troubles.

In 2006, he was suspended by the NFL for four games after testing positive for steroids. He blamed the positive test on a tainted supplement, which he never identified. Despite being limited to playing 12 games, Merriman finished with a career-best 17 sacks that season.

In 2009, Merriman was arrested just before the season after reality television star Tila Tequila accused him of battery and false imprisonment at his suburban San Diego home. No charges were filed, and Merriman and Tequila settled dueling lawsuits.

Though it was unlikely the Bills were going to re-sign him, Merriman’s retirement marks the latest change to the team’s defense under new coach Doug Marrone, and new coordinator Mike Pettine.

The Bills this offseason have already released three veteran defensive players: cornerback Terrence McGee, safety George Wilson and linebacker Nick Barnett. Last week, defensive lineman Chris Kelsay announced his retirement after 10 seasons in Buffalo.

In thanking his fans and two former teams, Merriman said he intends to pursue other career opportunities. Merriman has dabbled in acting, is a fan of kick boxing and wrestling and has also worked as a model.

In January, Merriman showed off his tattoos as a model for PETA’s “Ink, Not Mink” campaign, to encourage people not to wear natural fur coats.

“I feel truly blessed to have been part of the NFL, and to have had the opportunity of a lifetime,” Merriman wrote. “I will continue to train with some of the guys not because of football, but it’s part of my Lifestyle.”

Torre: MLB examining expanded replay for 2014



GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Major League Baseball intends to

expand the use of instant replay for the 2014 season and will be studying over the course of this year which calls to review and how to do it.

Joe Torre, an MLB executive vice president, said Tuesday that league officials plan to visit Miami during the World Baseball Classic and various spring training sites to examine camera angles and other factors that will help them develop a plan.

“We’re going to increase replay next year. We just don’t know how we’re going to go about it yet,” Torre said before managing the U.S. team for the World Baseball Classic in an exhibition against the Chicago White Sox.

“I know we’re using a number of venues to see what make sense,” Torre said, “and it’s really making sense with the rhythm of the game as a priority.”

Commissioner Bud Selig has said he wants to add video reviews for trapped balls and fair-or-foul calls, but league officials also are consider-

ing whether it makes sense to review close plays on basepaths—forceouts and tags, for example—and other controversial calls.

Torre said technology could help dictate how widely instant replay is expanded.

During tests last year at Yankee Stadium and Citi Field, MLB experimented with the Hawk-Eye animation system that is used to judge line calls in tennis, and the TrackMan radar software used by the PGA Tour for swing and ball flight analysis.

League executives also will be considering ways to implement wider review, such as giving the managers the option of challenging a call. A similar arrangement is used in the NFL, where coaches can throw a red challenge flag and have referees review whatever video is available.

“I don’t think it would be a pure challenge system,” Torre said. “We’ve stayed away from that being part of the game. The manager already makes so many decisions, and to drop another rock or two in his pocket, I think it’s a little bit much.”

Torre said the league is mainly

“looking at is some of the obvious stuff you can see right away,” but that it’s a balancing act to make sure replay doesn’t interrupt the flow of the game.

He also referred to a play in the NFL to illustrate the drawbacks of replay.

During a game in Pittsburgh, the Steelers quarterback lost control of the ball and officials allowed the play to continue, because it wasn’t clear whether it was a pass or fumble. The Chiefs recovered the ball and scored a touchdown, and then were penalized for excessive celebration.

The play was ruled an incomplete pass, giving the ball back to Pittsburgh.

“Now Pittsburgh, instead of being fourth (down) and having to punt, they have a first down because of a celebration of a touchdown that never happened,” Torre said. “So it’s not ideal. Just because you have replay, you’re not going to get the piece of cake that you want.”

One type of call that Torre said is not up for review is balls and strikes, though not so much because of limits on technology or questions about such a system’s accuracy.

“I think balls and strikes, you have to have something to yell about,” he said with a smile. “I don’t want to take the yelling out of the thing. That’s part of the color.”

Venezuela’s baseball team mourns death of Chavez



JUPITER, Fla. (AP)—Venezuela’s baseball team was taking pre-game batting practice when players heard that president Hugo Chavez

had died.

“He was a baseball man,” manager Luis Sojo said after a 6-5 loss to the Miami Marlins in a warmup game for the World Baseball Classic. “At the World Baseball Classic in 2006 and 2009, the first call in the morning was his. And after the game, he used to call me, too. It’s a very sad moment for our country. We wish the best to his family, we know they are going through a tough time right now.”

Chavez died Tuesday at age 58 after a nearly two-year fight against cancer.

“It’s sad what’s happening to our country,” first baseman Miguel Cabrera said. “We send our condolences to his family. This is something you don’t wish on anybody.”

“I don’t know how his family is right now. He’s no longer with us - it’s very sad. I cannot comment a lot on it because I feel a lot of pain, and I’m not there in Venezuela.”

Pitcher Carlos Zambrano said he hoped his fellow Venezuelans would come together.

“I’m very sad. I ask that the Venezuela people stay calm,” Zambrano said. “We have to understand that the president had a family. He’s a human being and it’s sad. We send him the condolences to the Chavez family. We know it’s a difficult moment. This caught us by surprise.”

Some players did not want to discuss Chavez’s death. Pitcher Anibal Sanchez and third baseman Pablo Sandoval both declined when asked to comment.

A Venezuela spokesman said the team had requested a pre-game moment of silence for Chavez and asked that flags be flown at half-staff, but was told all parties involved—the Marlins, Major League Baseball and Roger Dean Stadium—were not prepared to do so.

“There are things we can’t control,” Zambrano said. “For the respect of Venezuela, they have to do something before the first game against the Dominican Republic (at the WBC in Puerto Rico).”

IFC draws first blood in Women's M-League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The women's division of the M-League kicked off last Saturday night with Independents

Football Club breaking it to the win column first after shutting out Matansa Football Club, 3-0, at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

The IFC-Matansa tiff was played

in the curtain raiser and with both teams suiting up in their first game of the spring season, they showed some rust and neither squad managed to get its offense going early.

Then in the second half, Coquina Teregeyo broke the ice right at the resumption of the match to give IFC a 1-0 advantage. Four minutes later, it was Chuantio Munthonglang's turn to score, upping IFC's lead to 2-0. IFC's last goal came from Nola Hix-

Petersburg in the 65th minute.

Joining Hix-Petersburg, Teregeyo, and Munthonglang on IFC's 20-player roster are Temary Gramlich, Rebecca Steele, Maitree Sawikan, Miles Rodriguez, Pratoon Stoffer, Catherine Perry, Reena Patel, Anna Padilla, Lina Manalili, Ferleen Esmunda, Erica Dela Rosa, Cleo Nening, Chutima Borja, Bunman Brasuell, Melissa Borja, Khankaew Baothiang,

and Sarah Allen. Greg Borja coaches IFC.

Matansa listed only 18 players on its roster with young striker Maile Aldrich leading the squad. Also on the team are Bernadette Horey, Tawny Barcinas, Jumlong Horey, Tintin Conlon, Sombat Shankweller, Prangthong Johanse, Melanie Santos, Merlie Tolentino, Becky Robles, Lamyuan Yengthaisong, Rose Lazaro, Christy Villaflor, Luzvi-

minda Phan, Veisia Petere, Jovelyn Epperson, Lea Lagacion, and Carla Ballesteros.

Besides IFC and Matansa, four other teams are competing in the Women's M-League. MP United and Tan Holdings played in the second half last Saturday and had a scoreless draw. Paire FC and Shirley's FC completed Week 1 matches in the spring league with the latter winning last Tuesday's tiff at the Oleai pitch, 2-0.

Charlene Lizardo and Lalaine Pagarao scored on goal each for Shirley's victory with the former

making in to the scoreboard in the 18th and the latter in the 60th.

The six participating squads will play in a two-round robin competition and league organizers have yet to announce whether the champion will be decided based on the team standings after 10 games or via playoff matches.

Meanwhile, Week 2 of the league will be held this Saturday with Tan Holdings taking on Shirley's at 6pm and IFC going for win No. 2 against MP United at 8pm. Then on Tuesday at 6:30pm, Paire collides with Matansa.

NEWBIES

From Page 28

"The kick is there to win my first XTERRA Saipan. It will be hard as this is a tough course. I have to be very careful, pace myself well and hydrate to get things done," said Hugo, whose chances of winning XTERRA Philippines was also affected by two flat tires and one crash.

Scotland's Rory Down-

ie also had misfortunes in XTERRA Philippines and is hoping that breaks will go his way this weekend.

"Hopefully, there is no mishap this Saturday so I could make it to the Top 5," Downie said, who finished seventh in XTERRA Philippines.

He was in fourth place heading to the bike-run transition, but the race marshal waved him to do another lap and he was almost biking for 5K when he

realized he had been to the same place and was already done with the required two laps.

"Mistakes like that happens, especially if you're not familiar with the course. I already tried the bike and run legs of XTERRA Saipan, so I hope not to head to a wrong direction, again. There are lots of long climbs in the bike leg, so it is a challenge because I am used to short distance bike race," Downie said.

Like Downie, Bradley Weiss

also acknowledge the challenging XTERRA Saipan course and he hopes to past the tough test and improved from his fourth place finish in XTERRA Philippines.

"It's an extreme course, very technical. The run leg requires going through ravines. It is rocky, so you have to use the correct shoes. I am hoping to complete the race and get to a better position," said Weiss, who joined Downie, Hugo, and Saipan triathletes in a short

swim at the Tanks yesterday.

Female pros Carina Wasle and Daz Parker were also on the group and will be competing in XTERRA Saipan for the third time. Wasle did not finish in XTERRA Philippines when the rim of her bike broke and last year, she almost did not make it to the American Memorial Park due to a bad crash and she hopes her bad luck is over.

"I've waited for one year to come back to this beautiful island

and do one of my favorite races, so I hope everything will work out well this time," said Wasle.

Parker missed last year's Crown Jewel due to injury, but came back strong this season, placing third in XTERRA Philippines.

"It is nice to have a better finish every time I come here. I would love to place in the Top 3 again, but if not it is still okay. The important thing is to finish and enjoy this lovely race," Parker said.

FALCONS

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lowed by Comets I versus Comets II at noon and ending with the Falcons taking on the Little Legals at 3pm.

Then Sunday's action begins with the Jets squaring off with the Rockies at 9am trailed at noon by the Survivors versus the Braves before winding down with Laolao Bay against the Enforcers at 3pm.

SUNDAY McDonald's 9, Survivors 8

Winning pitcher Spencer Dickinson tallied 10 strikeouts in 3 2/3 innings and salvaged two hits at the plate for an RBI to lead McDonald's past the Survivors.

McDonald's found pay dirt in each of the first four innings and held a 2-1 edge after the opening frame.

They tacked on another pair of runs in the second inning, but the Survivors knotted up the score at 4-4 in the bottom portion.

Then McDonald's pressed on and worked around three runs in the top of the third inning and contained its rivals to a 7-6 score in the third inning and added some insurance in the ensuing exchange.

The Survivors postured a

comeback in the final stand, but came up a run short of forcing extra innings.

Survivors' Leonardo Salalila touched base four times and blasted a home run for two RBIs and a hit-by-pitch. Theo Laniyo also touched base four times and logged a triple and two RBIs.

McDonald's belted eight hits and stole seven bases in the game. Jared Reyes (RBI) and Austin Sanchez (run) each touched base twice and logged doubles.

Enforcers 10, Red Sox 7

The Enforcers staked to a 3-2 lead in the first inning and added another run in the second frame.

Then both teams worked around a couple of runs in the third inning and the Enforcers trumped the Red Sox in the fourth inning to grasp a 9-6 advantage and held strong in the last two exchanges.

The Red Sox's 11 hits actually one-upped the Enforcers in the match, but the former also committed a handful of costly errors out on the field.

Though Martin Omelau was credited with the win, Enforcers' Shakobe Rangamar was all over the place, tallying eight strikeouts on the mound through just three innings and hammering a pair of home runs for three RBIs. He was

also hit by a pitch.

The first liftoff came during the opening exchange and went for two runs to put the group in the driver's seat.

Enforcers' Rico Lizama touched base four times off three hits. Kenneth Kaipat logged two RBIs and a triple.

Red Sox's Luis Blas logged three hits, three stolen bases, and a hit by pitch. Greg Sablan picked up three RBIs with a double and a sacrifice fly.

Braves 12, Rockies 9

The Braves took an early 4-0 lead in the first inning and never looked back.

They tacked on seven more in the second frame and led it 12-2 after three innings.

The Rockies awoke in the latter half of the match, coupling a pair of three-run surges down the home stretch with a run from the fourth inning, but the Braves held strong on defense to secure the win.

Braves' Austin Benavente jacked a home run and a double in the game for three RBIs. Jeremy Ngirakel and Robin Sablan logged two RBIs. Tony Dizon touched base three times and came out with a double, a run, and a stolen base.

Rockies' Donavin Ada touched base five times with a double, a triple, two RBIs, and

going great. He's in shape and everything is ready, it's now just a matter of going over there and executing what we've been working on when the time comes to break off the chain," said Lassiter's coach Cuki Alvarez over the phone yesterday.

Technically, Saipan's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial of Marianas Elite was declared PXC's last official heavyweight champion when he outright defeated Martinez in June 2011 via technical knockout due to strikes. The bout was actually a rematch that occurred following a controversial draw between the pair in January 2011.

According to Fitial, his con-

a stolen base. Dai Podziewski logged two RBIs.

SATURDAY Twins 14, Rangers 0

The Twins started slow and only mustered one run in the opening frame, but came on strong in the second inning with a seven-run charge that was followed with another six-run wave in the third inning that overwhelmed the Rangers.

The latter squad struggled against winning pitcher Joseph Gildelak who struck out 10 of the 14 batters in total that he faced through four short innings. He also logged two RBIs at the plate.

Twins' Bradley Pangelinan picked up two hits and two RBIs.

Laolao Bay 8, Ol'Aces 4

Laolao Bay answered three runs put up by the Ol'Aces in the first inning with six runs in the bottom frame and held its opponents to just one run for the remainder of the match.

Laolao added a run in the second inning and wiped away Ol'Aces' final run in the fifth inning en route to a sound win.

The Ol'Aces out-hit Laolao, 8-2, but suffered pitching woes from the get-go.

They gave up seven walks, a hit-by-pitch, and a dropped third strike in the first inning

tract became void a year after his victory and has yet to be offered a title defense.

PXC never addressed the issue as to Fitial's standing with them, despite numerous email attempts when the story originally broke.

The latter feature of PXC 36's bi-main event features Trevon Jones (2-1) squaring off against Kyle Aguon (4-3) in a bantamweight clash where the winner moves up in line for a title shot against Crisanto "The Slugger" Pitpitunge (4-1).

Fight records were derived primarily from Sherdog.com, the self-proclaimed global authority on MMA.

and could not climb out of the hole as winning pitcher Pete Maratita went all six innings tallied 12 strikeouts and dealt 24 strikes on the first pitch. He logged a whopping 60 strikes out of 74 pitches.

Ol'Aces' Jordan Kosam bashed two hits in the game.

Comets I 11, Little Legals 6

Little Legals' Barry Lizama Jr. broke the ice in the first inning, singling on and then being escorted home by Gloyd Martin, but the Comets I awoke in the third inning and took the lead, 3-1, off three hits.

The hits and runs were credited to Kobe Santos, Austin Indalecio, and Vincent Nakamura.

The Little Legals tied it briefly in the bottom portion, but were stood up with the bases loaded in what was perhaps the turning point of the game.

Comets I pressed ahead, 7-3, in the next inning primarily off errors and sketchy pitching and pulled away, 10-3, in the fifth inning off two hits.

The crew added its final run in the top of the sixth inning and held the Legals to three runs to

preserve the win.

Comets I's Santos batted 2-for-3 for three runs and a stolen base. Tyron Ongelungel drew two base on balls for two runs and two stolen bases.

Little Legals' Lizama Jr. batted 3-for-4 for an RBI, three runs, and a stolen base. Jose Camacho swung 2-for-4 for an RBI, two runs, and a stolen base.

THURSDAY Falcons 18, IT&E 0

The Falcons' first three batters Koby Lifofoi, Max Pangelinan, and Ace Evangelista all reached and scored out of the gate and the group cruised ahead, 6-0, in the second inning.

While the Falcons' offense was clicking like clockwork, on the other side IT&E only managed one hit in the game and only briefly touched third base twice against winning pitcher.

Pangelinan batted 4-for-4 for two RBIs, four runs, and a stolen base. Lifofoi went 1-for-1 with three base on balls for four runs. Evangelista scored three times and logged two RBIs. Arby Yaguel went 1-for-1 with an RBI, two runs, and two base on balls.

MINI MOUSE

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nized form of combat, which was formatted as a K-1 kickboxing match, held as part of Trench Tech's Trench Warz 14: Fire Power over Ferrick Aguon back on Dec. 14, 2012.

However, last weekend, Aldan was pitted against a very talented 15-year-old in Francisco and was simply outclassed for three rounds.

Aldan acknowledged his opponent's experience after the fact, though he knew nothing about Francisco leading into the fight.

Though he was naturally disap-

pointed in the loss, Aldan chalked it up as a learning experience.

As for now he does not know exactly when or what type of scrap he will partake in next, but stated no plans of giving up or slowing down.

"It is what it is...I want to thank my family, my coach Cuki Alvarez, and all of my friends for supporting me," stated Aldan in an email on Tuesday.

In related news, Mylo "Bam-Bam" Lassiter (4-1) is featured as part of Pacific Xtreme Combat's PXC 36 MMA bi-main event when he takes on Spike 22 heavyweight Roque Martinez (5-4) for top contender spoils.

"[Mylo's] training has been

from July 6 to 17.

The CNMI Team is one of the 31 squads selected to compete in the beach volleyball event, joining Australia in the Oceania group. Europe's zone has the most entries with Russia, Austria, and Germany having two teams apiece and Czech Republic, France, Norway, Poland, Portugal, and Turkey fielding one each. China and Oman also have two squads each and are joined by Hong Kong, Japan, Thailand, and United Arab Emirates in the Asia pool, while South Africa is the lone Africa entry. In the America group, the U.S. and Brazil have two apiece, while Canada and Mexico have only one entry.

Meanwhile, NMASA's monthly meeting is set for tonight at 7pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

CNMI

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Nekaifes will only be the third and fourth CNMI athletes to participate in the competition sanctioned by Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire (International University Sports Federation). Swimmer Rezne Wong and biker Matthew Mancao were the first two, joining the 26th Summer Universiade in Shenzhen, China in 2011.

Laurie Peterka, president of Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association, which nominated McCullough-Stearns and Nekaifes, and coach Russ Quinn, welcomed the good news. The NMIVA officials also said its time for the CNMI spikers to get down to work and train hard for the competition that will be held

Saipan Finishers at 2013 Saipan Marathon

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Saipan's James Lee heads to the finish line of last Saturday's 2013 Saipan Marathon.



Charlie Epperson smiles as he nears the first place finish in the men's half marathon.



Juanita Fajardo, left, and Kathy Pagapular-Ruszala in a down-to-the-wire finish.



Spectators cheer on half marathon participant Betty Johnson.



Teresa Kim-Tenorio is about to cut the tape and complete the half marathon event.



Brad Ruszala enters the finish line loop.



Four-time 10K winner Noriko Jim poses for a photo after the race.



Glorybel Tan celebrates her finish.



Saipan barefoot runner Chang Wang Jang smiles as he nears the finish line of the marathon.



Two young 10K finishers from Saipan walk their way to the runners booth.



**Pierce helps
Celtics top
slumping 76ers,
109-101**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Bills' Merriman
announces plans
to retire**



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Newbies hope for redemption on Saipan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Three pros will be aiming for a better finish in the second stop of XTERRA Asia's Triple Crown when they debut in the 2013 XTERRA Saipan Championship this Saturday.

"I hope to do it right this time," said South Africa's Dan Hugo, who grabbed the lead from Ben Allen in XTERRA Philippines in the run leg only to fade away in the last few meters due to fatigue and settled for another runner-up finish losing by just less than a minute against the latter.

XTERRA Philippines was Hugo's second



straight runner-up honor this season after losing to compatriot Richard Murray in XTERRA South Africa about two weeks ago. With his back-to-back bridesmaid finish, Hugo admitted the pressure to win this time is growing and he is motivated to deliver in his XTERRA Saipan debut.

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Pro and Saipan triathletes pose for a group photo before plunging into the waters off Susupe yesterday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Falcons still soaring atop Major League

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Ta-laabwogh Stars Association Falcons posted its fourth straight victory in the form of a lopsided 18-0 no-doubter over IT&E last Thursday to remain in the lead in Saipan Little League's 16-team Major Division, as the 2013 season continued at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa-Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Falcons lead Natitbu

Sports Association Braves (2-0), Comets I (2-0), Attorney Vince Torres' Comets II (3-1), IT&E's Ol'Aces (3-1), JPO Program Enforcers (2-1), Kagman Laolao Bay Golf Resort (2-1), Attorney Robert T. Torres Kagman Little Legals (2-2), Pinnacle Staffing Rockies (1-1), the Jets (1-1), McDonald's Saipan (1-1), Bank of Saipan Red Sox (1-2), Rep. Christopher Deleon Guerrero As Matuis Twins (1-2), Dial Rent-To-Own/Martha's Store Survivors (0-3), IT&E (0-4), and Joeten Motors Kagman Ford Rangers (0-4).

In other results from Sunday,

McDonald's outlasted Survivors, 9-8; Enforcers toppled the Red Sox, 10-7; and the Braves defeated the Rockies, 12-9.

In addition, last Saturday the As Matuis Twins routed the Rangers, 14-0; Laolao Bay bested the Ol'Aces, 8-4; and Comets I defeated the Little Legals, 11-6.

Major League action continues today on Tan Ge Field at 4pm with the Twins facing off against Ol'Aces.

This weekend's matchups has the Rangers taking on IT&E at 9am on Saturday morning fol-

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A Laolao Bay Golf Resort player fields a ground ball at second base against the IT&E Ol'Aces during their Major League matchup last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa-Pangelinan Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

'Mini Mouse' Aldan comes up short in boxing debut

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Trench Tech Purebred's A.J. "Mini Mouse" Aldan lost his boxing debut in Guam last weekend to up-and-comer Adrienne Francisco (6-0) via unanimous decision after three rounds.

The pinweight bout was featured as part of an event headlined as Boxing At The Beach held at The Beach Bar in Tumon.

Aldan, 17, attends Saipan Southern High School and loves mixed martial arts. He is right-handed and tips the scales at 115 lbs

He said his fight handle "Mini Mouse" was inspired by Ultimate Fighter Championship flyweight champ Demetrious "Mighty Mouse" Johnson.

Aldan took the fight under a week's notice and though boxing is not really his forte, was totally up for the challenge.

Aldan has been training at Trench Tech for about five months and won his first-ever orga-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A.J. "Mini Mouse" Aldan, left, stands with the referee and opponent Adrienne Francisco after his bout at The Beach Bar in Tumon, Guam last Friday.

CNMI spikers get slot to University Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The CNMI will be represented anew in FISU's University Games after two beach volleyball players gained entry to the 27th Summer Universiade that will be held in Kazan, Russia this year.

Summer Universiade director Marc Vandenplas, in an email sent to Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White last week, said the CNMI is one of the two countries in the Oceania zone selected to compete in the University Games.

"We have the pleasure to inform you that your team has



McCullough-Stearns

been selected to participate in the following tournament (beach volleyball) of the 2013 Summer Universiade," Vandenplas said in his email.

"We're in. Congratulations to the CNMI Men's Beach Volleyball Team, John Nekaifes and Clay McCullough-Stearns,



Nikaifes

who were just officially selected to participate in the 2013 Summer University Games in Kazan, Russia," White wrote in his email sent to NMASA members and in his Facebook account.

McCullough-Stearns and
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